

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to which was  
3 referred Senate Bill No. 94 entitled “An act relating to promoting remote  
4 work” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that  
5 the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all  
6 after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT FOR REMOTE  
8 WORK IN VERMONT; STUDY; REPORT

9 (a) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, in  
10 consultation with the Commissioners of Labor, of Public Service, and of  
11 Buildings and General Services, and other interested stakeholders, shall  
12 identify and examine the infrastructure improvements and other support  
13 needed to:

14 (1) enhance the ability of workers and businesses to establish a remote  
15 presence in Vermont; and

16 (2) allow Vermonters, and businesses developing from build capacity  
17 throughout the State for maker spaces, co-working spaces, remote work hubs,  
18 and innovation spaces, to allow more Vermonters and businesses to perform  
19 work and provide services remotely.

20 (b) Based on his or her findings, and in consultation with the  
21 Commissioners of Labor, of Public Service, and of Buildings and General

1 Services, and other interested stakeholders, the Secretary shall design a  
2 program to address the needs identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
3 section.

4 (e) Specifically, the program

5 (b) The Secretary, working with his or her partners, shall review and  
6 consider steps necessary to:

7 (1) address the infrastructure needs of to expand the number of remote  
8 workers and businesses developing from generator spaces that may use maker  
9 spaces, co-working spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces;

10 (2) promote and facilitate the use of remote worksites and maker spaces,  
11 co-working spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces;

12 (3) encourage out-of-state companies to use remote workers in Vermont;

13 (4) reduce the administrative and regulatory burden on businesses  
14 employing remote workers in Vermont;

15 (5) increase the ease of start-up companies finding remote work or  
16 maker spaces, co-working spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces in  
17 the State; and

18 (5) support the interconnection of current and future maker spaces, co-  
19 working spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces in this State.

20 (c) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the House  
21 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate

1 Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a written  
2 report detailing:

3 (1) his or her findings, **program, and** any recommendations for  
4 legislative action to implement the program; and

5 (2) any additional policy changes to improve the climate for remote  
6 workers, including zoning measures, insurance and liability issues, workforce  
7 training needs, broadband access, access to co-working spaces, and an  
8 assessment of environmental implications of working remotely.

9 **Sec. 2. INTEGRATED PUBLIC-PRIVATE STATE WORKSITES**

10 (a) The Secretary of Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of  
11 Commerce and Community Development and the Commissioner of Buildings  
12 and General Services, shall examine the potential for the State to establish  
13 remote worksites that are available for use by both State employees and remote  
14 workers in the private sector.

15 (b) The Secretary shall examine the feasibility of and potential funding  
16 models for the worksites, including the opportunity to provide at low or no cost  
17 co-work space within State buildings that is currently vacant or underutilized.

18 (c) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit a written  
19 report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and  
20 the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General

1 Affairs detailing his or her findings and any recommendations for legislative  
2 action.

3 Sec. 3. BROADBAND AVAILABILITY FOR REMOTE WORKERS

4 On or before January 15, 2019, the Director of Telecommunications and  
5 Connectivity, in consultation with the Agency of Commerce and Community  
6 Development, shall submit with the annual report required by 30 V.S.A.

7 § 202e findings and recommendations concerning:

8 (1) the current availability of broadband service in municipal downtown  
9 centers that do, or could at reasonable cost, support one or more co-working  
10 spaces or similar venues for remote workers and small businesses; and

11 (2) strategies for expanding and enhancing broadband availability for  
12 such spaces.

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15  
16 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

17 \_\_\_\_\_

18 Representative \_\_\_\_\_

19 FOR THE COMMITTEE