

1 H.384

2 Introduced by Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Cina of Burlington,  
3 Fields of Bennington, Morris of Bennington, O'Sullivan of  
4 Burlington, Stuart of Brattleboro, and Weed of Enosburgh

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Corrections; criminal procedure; women with minor children; study  
8 committee

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a  
10 study committee to report to the General Assembly in 2018 on how best to  
11 divert from the correctional system women who are charged with nonviolent  
12 offenses and who are custodial parents of minor children.

13 An act relating to a study committee on justice-involved women who are  
14 custodial parents of minor children

15 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

16 Sec. 1. COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE-INVOLVED WOMEN PARENTING  
17 MINOR CHILDREN

18 (a) Study Committee. The Justice-Involved Women Parenting Minor  
19 Children Study Committee is created to advise the General Assembly on issues  
20 involving diverting women who are charged with nonviolent offenses and who

1 are custodial parents of minor children to alternative justice programs, in  
2 which they are able to maintain daily contact with their children.

3 (b) Membership.

4 (1) The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

5 (A) Four members shall be appointed by the General Assembly, two  
6 of which shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees and two  
7 by the Speaker of the House, and each appointing authority shall appoint no  
8 more than one member from the same political party;

9 (B) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

10 (C) the Executive Director of the Vermont Commission on Women;

11 (D) the Defender General or designee;

12 (E) the Chief Administrative Judge or designee;

13 (F) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

14 (G) a representative of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim  
15 Services; and

16 (H) two members appointed by the Governor to represent the  
17 interests of community-based criminal justice reform advocacy groups.

18 (2) The Committee shall elect a chair and a vice chair and shall meet at  
19 the call of the Chair. A quorum shall consist of seven members, and decisions  
20 of the Committee shall require the approval of a majority of those members  
21 present and voting.

1       (c) Duties. The Committee shall identify how to divert women with  
2       nonviolent criminal charges who are the custodial parents of minor children  
3       away from the correctional system in a manner that is consistent with public  
4       safety, ensures appropriate community supports to the defendant or offender,  
5       and will ensure the defendant or offender has daily contact with her child or  
6       children.

7       (d) Reimbursement. Members of the Committee who are not employees of  
8       the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed  
9       for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
10       reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010, paid from the budget  
11       of the Agency of Administration, for attendance of meetings of the Committee.

12       (e) Meetings and report. The Committee shall meet not fewer than six  
13       times to undertake its duties as outlined in subsection (c) of this section. The  
14       Committee shall report on its findings and specific recommendations in  
15       summary to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary on or before  
16       January 15, 2018.

17       Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18       This act shall take effect on passage.