

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred Senate Bill No.  
3 280 entitled “An act relating to the Advisory Council for Strengthening  
4 Families” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends  
5 that 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. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHILD POVERTY AND  
8 STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

9 (a)(1) There is created the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and  
10 Strengthening Families to:

11 (A) identify and examine structural and other issues in Vermont that:

12 (i) lead to families living in poverty; and

13 (ii) create conditions that prevent families from moving out of  
14 poverty; and

15 (B) advance policies that:

16 (i) promote financial stability and asset building;

17 (ii) support safety nets for families with low income; and

18 (iii) mitigate the effects of childhood poverty.

19 (2) The Advisory Council shall provide guidance and recommend  
20 policies that either reduce incidences of or mitigate the effects of childhood  
21 poverty. It shall serve as an educational forum for both its members and the

1 public. The Advisory Council shall use data better to understand existing and  
2 emerging challenges to children and families living in poverty.

3 (3) The Advisory Council shall monitor the development and  
4 implementation of the Agency of Human Services' childhood trauma response  
5 plan required pursuant to 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 4.

6 (b)(1) Voting membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of  
7 the following 15 voting members:

8 (A) the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or designee;

9 (B) the Speaker of the House or designee;

10 (C) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or designee;

11 (D) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare or  
12 designee;

13 (E) the Chair of the House Committee on Education or designee;

14 (F) the Chair of the House Committee on Human Services or  
15 designee;

16 (G) a member appointed by Voices for Vermont's Children;

17 (H) a member appointed by the Vermont Low Income Advocacy  
18 Council;

19 (I) a member appointed by Vermont Legal Aid;

20 (J) a member appointed by the Vermont Coalition for Disability  
21 Rights;

1           (K) a member appointed by the Vermont Affordable Housing  
2           Coalition;

3           (L) a nongovernmental designee of the Child and Family Trauma  
4           Work Group who does not otherwise represent an organization with  
5           membership on this Council;

6           (M) an employee of the prekindergarten through grade 12 public  
7           education delivery system in Vermont appointed jointly by the Executive  
8           Directors of the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont Principals’  
9           Association, and the Vermont Council of Special Education Coordinators;

10           (N) a business owner appointed by Vermont Businesses  
11           Roundtable; and

12           (O) a member appointed by the Vermont Community Action  
13           Partnership.

14           (2) Nonvoting membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed  
15           of the following five nonvoting members or designees:

16           (A) the Secretary of Education;

17           (B) the Secretary of Human Services;

18           (C) the Commissioner for Children and Families;

19           (D) the Commissioner of Health; and

20           (E) the Commissioner of Labor.

1        (c) Assistance. The Advisory Council shall have the administrative,  
2        technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the  
3        Joint Fiscal Office.

4        (d) Work products.

5            (1) Compilation of minutes. On or before January 1 of each year, the  
6        Advisory Council shall submit to the General Assembly a compilation of its  
7        meeting minutes from the previous calendar year that summarizes the Advisory  
8        Council’s activities and decisions.

9            (2) Recommendations. On or before January 1 of each year, the  
10       Advisory Council shall submit a list of policy recommendations and legislative  
11       priorities from the previous calendar year to the General Assembly or to the  
12       appropriate State agency or organization that are aimed at reducing incidences  
13       of or mitigating the effects of childhood poverty.

14           (3) Legislation. On or before November 15 of each year, the Advisory  
15       Council may prepare legislation for introduction by one or more of its  
16       legislative members that contains any of the Advisory Council’s policy  
17       recommendations for reducing incidences of or mitigating the effects of  
18       childhood poverty.

1       (e) Meetings.

2               (1) The member of the House Committee on Human Services shall call  
3 the first meeting of the Advisory Council to occur on or before July 1 of each  
4 year.

5               (2) Each year the Advisory Council shall select a chair from among its  
6 legislative members at the first meeting. The Advisory Council may select a  
7 vice chair from among its legislative members.

8               (3) A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

9               (4) At least once annually, the Advisory Council shall meet in a location  
10 other than the State House for the purpose of receiving testimony from  
11 members of Vermont families experiencing poverty or organizations providing  
12 direct services to Vermont families experiencing poverty.

13               (5)(A) The Advisory Council shall cease to exist on July 1, 2028.

14               (B) Five years prior, in 2023, the Advisory Council shall conduct a  
15 midterm review of its achievements and effectiveness using results-based  
16 accountability. Among any other benchmarks that the Advisory Council  
17 chooses to measure pursuant to subdivision (C) of this subdivision (5), it shall  
18 review, as compared to 2016:

19                       (i) the number and percentage of children living in families at  
20 50 percent, 100 percent, and 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and

1                   (ii) the number and percentage of children living in families  
2 paying more than 30 percent of their cash income for housing and related  
3 expenses.

4                   (C) On or before January 1, 2019, the Advisory Council shall identify  
5 any additional benchmarks it plans to measure during its 2023 midterm review.

6                   (f) Compensation and reimbursement.

7                   (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
8 Assembly, a legislative member of the Advisory Council serving in his or her  
9 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
10 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than six  
11 meetings.

12                   (2) Other members of the Advisory Council who are not employees of  
13 the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed  
14 for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
15 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six  
16 meetings.

17                   (3) Payments to members of the Advisory Council authorized under this  
18 subsection shall be made from monies appropriated by the General Assembly.

1 Sec. 2. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 60, Sec. 23(h) is amended to read:

2 (h) Sunset. On June 1, ~~2018~~ 2021, this section (creating the Joint  
3 Legislative Child Protection Oversight Committee) is repealed and the  
4 Committee shall cease to exist.

5 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on passage; provided, however, that if the date of  
7 passage is after June 1, 2018, then notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 2 shall  
8 apply retroactively to June 1, 2018.

9 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating  
10 to the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families”

11

12

13 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

14

\_\_\_\_\_

15

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

16

FOR THE COMMITTEE