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H.196

Representatives Browning of Arlington, Canfield of Fair Haven, Condon of Colchester and Wright of Burlington move that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. PAID FAMILY LEAVE; STUDY OF PROGRAM AND FUNDING MODELS

(a)(1) The Joint Fiscal Office shall identify, evaluate, and compare various approaches to providing employees with paid time off that can be used for the purposes of family leave and parental leave as defined pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 471.

(2) The Joint Fiscal Office shall examine the following models for providing paid time off to employees for family leave and parental leave:

(A) a State-administered parental and family leave insurance program funded by mandatory contributions from employees' wages;

(B) a State-administered parental and family leave insurance program funded by contributions from employees' wages that employees or employers, or both, may elect to participate in;

(C) a State-administered parental and family leave insurance program funded by contributions from employees' wages that employees or employers, or both, may elect to not participate in;

1           (D) a program providing for parental and family leave savings  
2           accounts to which an employer can make contributions that are eligible for a  
3           corporate income tax deduction or credit; and

4           (E) a parental and family leave insurance program that is funded  
5           through General Fund appropriations.

6           (3) The Joint Fiscal Office shall evaluate and compare the identified  
7           models for providing paid time off to employees for family leave and parental  
8           leave in relation to the following issues:

9           (A) the cost to the State, employers, and employees of providing  
10          benefits pursuant to the program;

11          (B) the projected rate at which the benefits would be used by  
12          employees; and

13          (C) the feasibility of implementing each program.

14          (b) On or before January 15, 2018, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a  
15          written report regarding its findings to the House Committees on  
16          Appropriations, on General, Housing and Military Affairs, and on Ways and  
17          Means and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Economic  
18          Development, Housing and General Affairs, and on Finance.