

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Starr, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture
FROM: Jeanette White, Chair, Senate Committee on Government Operations
Maida Townsend, Chair, House Committee on Government Operations
DATE: January 8, 2018
SUBJECT: 2018 Reports Repeal Bill

The General Assembly established in law an intent to repeal after five years the requirement that State agencies submit reports annually to the General Assembly. The law also requires Legislative Council in each biennium to prepare a list of the reports subject to that repeal. The law is set forth in [2 V.S.A. § 20\(d\)](#), which reads:

(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that, except for reports required by interstate compacts and except as otherwise provided by law, whenever an agency is required by law to submit an annual, biennial, or other periodic report to the General Assembly, that requirement shall no longer be required after five years or after five years from the last date that the statutory or session law section containing the report was amended, whichever date is later. In each biennial session, the Legislative Council shall prepare for the General Assembly's review a list of the reports subject to this subsection. A report requirement shall only expire pursuant to legislative enactment.

Identified on the attached spreadsheet are reports that are subject to the five-year repeal in 2018 or 2019, and which cover subject matter within your committee's jurisdiction.

If a report requirement is repealed, the information that report provides will remain available to committees pursuant to committee request. There should be no reduction in accountability from any State agency. **The question is whether a legislatively required ongoing report is necessary for legislative work.** Eliminating unnecessary ongoing reports will allow agency staff to redirect their efforts to more substantive work.

We suggest that the question for each committee is, "*Have you used and will you need to use these reports in legislative decisions?*" Please review the spreadsheet and identify those reports you still need. Three columns are provided for your response (please mark only one):

- 1) The report is no longer useful and therefore the requirement should be repealed;
- 2) The report is useful but not of permanent importance and therefore the requirement should continue until a future reports review in 2022; or
- 3) The report is fundamental and therefore should be permanently required.

Please return the survey to us at the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations by January 26, 2018. Failure to respond by January 26 will be taken to mean that the report requirement should be repealed. We will then prepare the 2018 Reports Repeal Bill to reflect committee feedback. Thank you for your cooperation; we appreciate it.