

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. CHILD POVERTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHILD POVERTY  
8 AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

9 (a) Creation. There is created the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and  
10 Strengthening Families to examine structural issues in Vermont that create  
11 conditions that prevent families from moving out of poverty and to advance  
12 policies that support safety nets for low-income families and that mitigate the  
13 generational effects of poverty. The Advisory Council shall provide guidance  
14 and recommend legislation to the General Assembly that either reduces or  
15 mitigates the effects of childhood poverty.

16 (b)(1) Voting membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of  
17 the following 13 voting members:

18 (A) three members of the Senate, not all from the same political  
19 party, appointed by the Committee on Committees, including one member  
20 from the Committee on Education and one member from the Committee on  
21 Health and Welfare;

1           (B) three members of the House, not all from the same political party,  
2           appointed by the Speaker of House, including one member from the  
3           Committee on Education and one member from the Committee on Human  
4           Services;

5           (C) a member appointed by Voices for Vermont’s Children;

6           (D) a member appointed by the Vermont Low Income Advocacy  
7           Council;

8           (E) a member appointed by Vermont Legal Aid;

9           (F) a member appointed by the Vermont Coalition for Disability  
10          Rights;

11          (G) a member appointed by the Vermont Affordable Housing  
12          Coalition;

13          (H) a nongovernmental designee of the Child and Family Trauma  
14          Work Group who does not otherwise represent an organization with  
15          membership on this Council; and

16          (I) an employee of the prekindergarten through grade 12 public  
17          education delivery system in Vermont appointed jointly by the Executive  
18          Directors of the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont Principals’  
19          Association, and the Vermont Council of Special Education Coordinators.

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

1           (A) the Secretary of Education;

2           (B) the Secretary of Human Services;

3           (C) the Commissioner for Children and Families;

4           (D) the Commissioner of Health; and

5           (E) the Commissioner of Labor.

6           (c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Council shall examine structural  
7           issues in Vermont that create conditions that prevent families from moving out  
8           of poverty and shall provide related guidance and recommendations to the  
9           General Assembly. It shall serve as an educational forum for both its members  
10           and the public. The Council shall use data to understand better existing and  
11           emerging challenges to children and families living in poverty.

12           (d) Assistance. The Advisory Council shall have the administrative,  
13           technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the  
14           Joint Fiscal Office.

15           (e) Work products.

16           (1) Recommendations. On or before January 1 of each year, the  
17           Advisory Council may submit a list of recommendations and legislative  
18           priorities from the previous calendar year to the General Assembly that are  
19           aimed at reducing or mitigating the effects of childhood poverty.

20           (2) Legislation. On or before November 15 of each year, the Advisory  
21           Council may prepare legislation for introduction by one or more of its

1 legislative members that contains any of the Advisory Council's  
2 recommendations for reducing or mitigating the effects of childhood poverty.

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

7 (f) Meetings.

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

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

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

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

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

20 (B) Five years prior, in 2023, the Advisory Council shall conduct a  
21 midterm review of its achievements and effectiveness using results-based

1 accountability. Among any other benchmarks that the Advisory Council  
2 chooses to measure pursuant to subdivision (C) of this subdivision (4), it shall  
3 review, as compared to 2016:

4 (i) the number and percentage of children living in families at  
5 50 percent, 100 percent, and 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and

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

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

11 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

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

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

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

3           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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

7

8

9

10

11

12           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

13

\_\_\_\_\_

14

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

15

FOR THE COMMITTEE