

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No.  
3 608 entitled “An act relating to creating an Older Vermonters Act working  
4 group” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends  
5 that the Senate propose to the House that the bill as amended by the Committee  
6 on Health and Welfare be further amended by striking out Sec. 3, Older  
7 Vermonters Act working group; report, in its entirety and inserting in lieu  
8 thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 3. OLDER VERMONTERS ACT WORKING GROUP; REPORT

10 (a) Creation. There is created an Older Vermonters Act working group for  
11 the purpose of developing recommendations for an Older Vermonters Act that  
12 aligns with the federal Older Americans Act, the Vermont State Plan on Aging,  
13 and the Choices for Care program.

14 (b) Membership. The working group shall be composed of the following  
15 18 members:

16 (1) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or  
17 designee;

18 (2) the Director of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the  
19 Department of Health or designee;

20 (3) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

21 (4) the Attorney General or designee;

- 1           (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Association of Area Agencies
- 2           on Aging or designee;
- 3           (6) the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman;
- 4           (7) the Director of Vermont Associates for Training and Development or
- 5           designee;
- 6           (8) a representative of the Vermont Association of Adult Day Services,
- 7           appointed by the Association;
- 8           (9) a representative of home health agencies, appointed jointly by the
- 9           VNAs of Vermont and Bayada Home Health Care;
- 10           (10) a representative of long-term care facilities, appointed by the
- 11           Vermont Health Care Association;
- 12           (11) the Director of the Center on Aging at the University of Vermont or
- 13           designee;
- 14           (12) a representative of the Vermont Association of Senior Centers and
- 15           Meal Providers, appointed by the Association;
- 16           (13) the Executive Director of the Alzheimer’s Association, Vermont
- 17           Chapter, or designee;
- 18           (14) the Director of Support and Services at Home or designee;
- 19           (15) two older Vermonters from different regions of the State, appointed
- 20           by the Advisory Board established by 33 V.S.A. § 505; and

1           (16) two family caregivers of older Vermonters, one of whom is a  
2           family member of an older Vermonter and one of whom is an informal  
3           provider of in-home and community care, appointed by the Advisory Board  
4           established by 33 V.S.A. § 505.

5           (c) Powers and duties. The working group, in consultation with elder care  
6           mental health clinicians, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Community  
7           of Vermont Elders, AARP Vermont, the Elder Law Project at Vermont Legal  
8           Aid, the Vermont Public Transportation Association, and other interested  
9           stakeholders, shall develop recommendations on the following:

10           (1) the authority and responsibilities of the Vermont Department of  
11           Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living as a State Unit on Aging;

12           (2) the authority and responsibilities of the Vermont Department of  
13           Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living with respect to the management,  
14           approval, and oversight of services provided to eligible older Vermonters  
15           through the Choices for Care program;

16           (3) the roles and responsibilities of the Area Agencies on Aging as the  
17           designated regional planning organizations serving older Vermonters and  
18           family caregivers;

19           (4) the roles and responsibilities of the network of providers of services  
20           to older Vermonters and family caregivers;

1           (5) a description of a comprehensive and coordinated system of services  
2           and supports for older Vermonters and family caregivers as envisioned by the  
3           Older Americans Act and the Choices for Care program, including supportive  
4           services, nutrition services, health promotion and disease prevention services,  
5           family caregiver services, employment services, and protective services;

6           (6) a description of how such a system would be coordinated across  
7           State agencies, provider networks, and geographic regions;

8           (7) how to ensure that such a system would target those in greatest  
9           economic and social need;

10           (8) ways to encourage and educate older Vermonters to continue in the  
11           workforce and to become or remain involved in their communities through  
12           participation in volunteer activities and opportunities for civic engagement; and

13           (9) ways to educate employers about the value of the older Vermonter  
14           talent cohort and the benefits of maintaining a multigenerational workforce, as  
15           well as identification of models that may be replicated across sectors and  
16           industries.

17           (d) Assistance. The working group shall have the administrative, technical,  
18           and legal assistance of the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent  
19           Living.

1       (e) Report. On or before December 1, 2019, the working group shall  
2       submit its recommendations to the House Committee on Human Services and  
3       the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

4       (f) Meetings.

5           (1) The Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or  
6       designee shall chair the working group and shall call the first meeting of the  
7       working group, which shall occur on or before September 15, 2018.

8           (2) The working group shall meet as often as reasonably necessary to  
9       develop its recommendations, but not less frequently than once every two  
10       months.

11           (3) The working group shall cease to exist upon submitting its report to  
12       the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2019.

13       (g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the working group who  
14       are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise  
15       compensated or reimbursed for their attendance at meetings of the working  
16       group shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A.  
17       § 1010. Reimbursement payments to these members shall be made from  
18       monies appropriated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent  
19       Living.

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2 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE