

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred Senate Bill No. 116  
3 entitled “An act relating to the Racial Justice Oversight Board” respectfully  
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be  
5 amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu  
6 thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 168 is added to read:

8 § 168. RACIAL JUSTICE BOARD

9 (a) The Racial Justice Board is established. The Board shall be organized  
10 and have the duties and responsibilities as provided in this section. The Board  
11 shall be organized within the Office of the Attorney General, and members of  
12 the Board shall be drawn from throughout the State and from diverse racial,  
13 ethnic, religious, age, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic  
14 backgrounds, and shall have had experience working to implement racial  
15 justice reform.

16 (b) The Board shall comprise the following 15 members:

17 (1) five members to represent the interests of communities of color  
18 throughout the State, appointed by the Attorney General, including:

19 (A) a member with expertise in implicit bias;

20 (B) a member with expertise in education;

21 (C) a member with expertise in labor and employment;

1           (D) a member with expertise in health care; and

2           (E) a member with expertise in economic development;

3           (2) the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training  
4 Council or designee;

5           (3) the Attorney General or designee;

6           (4) the Defender General or designee;

7           (5) the Executive Director of the State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs or  
8 designee;

9           (6) the Chief Superior Judge or designee;

10          (7) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

11          (8) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

12          (9) a representative of the Vermont Police Association;

13          (10) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission  
14 or designee; and

15          (11) the Executive Director of the Vermont chapter of the ACLU or  
16 designee.

17          (c) The members of the Board appointed under subdivision (b)(1) of this  
18 section shall serve staggered four-year terms. As terms of currently serving  
19 members expire, appointments of successors shall be in accord with the  
20 provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Appointments of members to fill  
21 vacancies or expired terms shall be made by the authority that made the initial

1 appointment to the vacated or expired term. Members of the Board shall be  
2 eligible for reappointment. Members of the Board shall serve no more than  
3 three consecutive terms in any capacity.

4 (d) Members of the Board shall elect biennially by majority vote the Chair  
5 of the Board. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their  
6 services, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses in the manner and  
7 amount provided to employees of the State.

8 (e) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, and  
9 all action shall be taken upon a majority vote of the members present and  
10 voting.

11 (f) The Board shall undertake an ongoing formal review of racial justice  
12 reform across the State, including within the systems of education, labor and  
13 employment, housing, health care, economic development, and criminal and  
14 juvenile justice, by monitoring the collection and publication of race-based  
15 data, recommending policies and trainings to address systemic implicit bias,  
16 and evaluating racial justice policies, practices, and results statewide, including  
17 determining whether there is variation across the State and the cause of any  
18 such variation. In furtherance of that responsibility, the Board shall:

19 (1) review and make recommendations to address persistent racial  
20 disparities in statewide systems of education, labor and employment, economic  
21 development, health care, and housing;

1           (2) review and make recommendations regarding statewide criminal and  
2           juvenile justice reform, including:

3                   (A) continually reviewing the data collected pursuant to 20 V.S.A.  
4                   § 2366 to measure State progress toward a fair and impartial system of law  
5                   enforcement;

6                   (B) providing recommendations to the Criminal Justice Training  
7                   Council and the Vermont Bar Association, based on the latest social science  
8                   research and best practices in law enforcement and criminal and juvenile  
9                   justice, on model trainings and policies for law enforcement, judges,  
10                  correctional officers, and attorneys, including prosecutors and public  
11                  defenders, to recognize and address implicit bias; and

12                  (C) providing recommendations to the Criminal Justice Training  
13                  Council, based on the latest social science research and best practices in law  
14                  enforcement, on a model training and policy on the use of force in policing;

15                  (3) educate and engage with communities, businesses, educational  
16                  institutions, State and local governments, and the general public about the  
17                  nature and scope of racial discrimination and the systemic and institutionalized  
18                  nature of race-based bias, and on progress made toward racial justice;

19                  (4) at the Board's discretion, provide the Executive and Legislative  
20                  Branches of State government with an assessment of the disparate racial  
21                  impact of a proposed policy or legislation; and

1           (5) on or before January 15, 2018, and biannually thereafter, report to  
2           the General Assembly, and provide as a part of that report recommendations to  
3           address systemic implicit bias in Vermont, including:

4                   (A) a public complaint process to address perceived implicit bias  
5                   across all systems of State government;

6                   (B) prohibiting racial profiling, including any associated penalties;

7                   (C) expanding law enforcement race data collection practices to  
8                   include data on nontraffic stops by law enforcement; and

9                   (D) amending the Vermont Constitution to clarify that slavery in any  
10                  form is prohibited.

11           Sec. 2. CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL; REPORTING TO  
12                   THE RACIAL JUSTICE BOARD

13                  The Criminal Justice Training Council shall, on a regular and ongoing basis,  
14                  report to the Racial Justice Board regarding:

15                   (1) the adoption and implementation of the Board's recommended  
16                   implicit bias trainings and policies pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 168(f)(2)(B);

17                   (2) the incorporation of implicit bias training into the requirements of  
18                   basic training pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358; and

19                   (3) the implementation of the refresher trainings as required by  
20                   20 V.S.A. § 2358(e).

1       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2           This act shall take effect on passage.

3       and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating  
4       to the Racial Justice Board”

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11           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE