

1 Introduced by Representative Lanpher of Vergennes
2 Referred to Committee on
3 Date:
4 Subject: Human services; child poverty; advisory council
5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the
6 Child Poverty Advisory Council.

7 An act relating to the Child Poverty Advisory Council

8 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

9 Sec. 1. CHILD POVERTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

10 (a) Creation. There is created the Child Poverty Advisory Council to
11 examine structural issues in Vermont that create conditions that prevent
12 families from moving out of poverty. The Advisory Council shall provide
13 guidance and recommend legislation to the General Assembly that either
14 reduces or mitigates the effects of childhood poverty.

15 (b) Membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of the
16 following 12 members:

17 (1) the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or designee;

18 (2) the Speaker of the House or designee;

19 (3) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or designee;

- 1 (4) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare or
2 designee;
- 3 (5) the Chair of the House Committee on Education or designee;
4 (6) the Chair of the House Committee on Human Services or designee;
5 (7) a member appointed by Voices for Vermont’s Children;
6 (8) a member appointed by the Vermont Low Income Advocacy
7 Council;
- 8 (9) a member appointed by Vermont Legal Aid;
9 (10) a member appointed by Disability Rights Vermont;
10 (11) a member appointed by the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
11 Association; and
- 12 (12) the Chair of the Child and Family Trauma Work Group or designee.
- 13 (c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Council shall examine structural
14 issues in Vermont that create conditions that prevent families from moving out
15 of poverty and shall provide related guidance and recommendations to the
16 General Assembly. It shall use data to better understand existing and emerging
17 challenges to children and families living in poverty.
- 18 (d) Assistance. The Advisory Council shall have the administrative,
19 technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council.

1 (e) Work products.

2 (1) Legislation. On or before November 15 of each year, the Advisory
3 Council may prepare legislation for introduction by one or more of its
4 legislative members that contains any of the Advisory Council's
5 recommendations for reducing or mitigating the effects of childhood poverty.

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

10 (f) Meetings.

11 (1) The Speaker of the House or designee shall call the first meeting of
12 the Advisory Council to occur on or before July 1 of each year.

13 (2) Each year the Council shall select a chair from among its legislative
14 members at the first meeting.

15 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

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

17 (B) Five years prior, in 2023, the Advisory Council shall conduct a
18 mid-term review of its achievements and effectiveness using results-based
19 accountability. Among any other benchmarks that the Advisory Council
20 chooses to measure, it shall review, as compared to 2018:

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

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

5 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

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

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

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

18 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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