

1 H.376

2 Introduced by Representatives Savage of Swanton, Gamache of Swanton,

3 Graham of Williamstown, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan of

4 Milton, Myers of Essex, Page of Newport City, Palasik of

5 Milton, and Rosenquist of Georgia

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Public safety; law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services;

9 dispatch; study committee

10 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a

11 Public Safety Dispatch Study Committee to make specific recommendations

12 on how law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services can be

13 dispatched on a regional or county basis under an equitable funding model.

14 An act relating to creating the Public Safety Dispatch Study Committee

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

16 Sec. 1. PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

17 (a) Creation. There is created the Public Safety Dispatch Study

18 Committee to make specific recommendations on how law enforcement, fire,

19 and emergency medical services can be dispatched on a regional or county

20 basis under an equitable funding model.

1 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
2 members:

3 (1) one current member of the House of Representatives who shall be
4 appointed by the Speaker of the House and who shall serve as Co-Chair;

5 (2) one current member of the Senate appointed by the Committee on
6 Committees and who shall serve as Co-Chair;

7 (3) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

8 (4) the President of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association or designee;

9 (5) the President of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont or
10 designee;

11 (6) the President of the Vermont Career Fire Chiefs Association or
12 designee;

13 (7) a chief of a volunteer firefighter department appointed by the
14 President of the Vermont State Firefighters Association; and

15 (8) the Vermont Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services
16 Chief or designee.

17 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study and propose a specific
18 plan for how law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services can be
19 dispatched on a regional or county basis under an equitable funding model.
20 The proposed plan shall include specific recommendations regarding the
21 following issues:

1 (1) the manner in which different dispatch services should communicate
2 among each other;

3 (2) whether there should be different dispatching services used among
4 State agencies and departments;

5 (3) the role of regional dispatch centers;

6 (4) the funding source or sources for the proposed plan;

7 (5) the time frame for implementing the proposed plan; and

8 (6) any alternative recommendations on how public safety dispatch
9 should be structured and funded.

10 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
11 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal
12 Office.

13 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2021, the Committee shall submit a
14 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Government
15 Operations that summarizes its findings and recommendations and that
16 contains proposed legislation reflecting its recommendations.

17 (f) Meetings.

18 (1) The Co-Chairs shall call the first meeting of the Committee to
19 occur on or before September 1, 2019.

20 (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

21 (3) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 15, 2021.

1 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

2 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
3 Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee shall be entitled to per
4 diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to
5 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than five meetings per year.

6 (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
7 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under
8 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than five meetings per year.

9 (3) Payments to members of the Committee authorized under this
10 subsection shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage.