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H.402

Introduced by Representatives Killacky of South Burlington, Birong of Vergennes, Bock of Chester, Brumsted of Shelburne, Colston of Winooski, Demrow of Corinth, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Elder of Starksboro, Gamache of Swanton, Gardner of Richmond, Gonzalez of Winooski, Hooper of Burlington, James of Manchester, Notte of Rutland City, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Redmond of Essex, Sullivan of Dorset, Sullivan of Burlington, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Internal security and public safety; needy veterans; food security

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the Vermont Veterans Food Security Pilot Program.

An act relating to food security for veterans

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

2 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 1606 is added to read:

3 § 1606. VERMONT VETERANS FOOD SECURITY PILOT PROGRAM

4 (a) As used in this section, “food-insecure” means lacking reliable access to  
5 a reasonably sufficient quantity of nutritious food.

6 (b) The Vermont Veterans Food Security Pilot Program is established at  
7 the Vermont Veterans’ Home to provide food-insecure veterans in Bennington  
8 County with access to fresh, nutritious food.

9 (c)(1) Notwithstanding section 1601 of this chapter, the Chief Executive  
10 Officer of the Vermont Veterans’ Home, in consultation with the Adjutant and  
11 Inspector General; the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs; Northshire Grows  
12 Inc.; the Vermont Foodbank; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’  
13 Bennington Community Based Outpatient Clinic; farms in Bennington County  
14 that are operated by veterans; and other community stakeholders, shall develop  
15 the Vermont Veterans Food Security Pilot Program to procure and distribute  
16 food to food-insecure veterans and their families.

17 (2) The Vermont Veterans Food Security Pilot Program shall do the  
18 following:

19 (A) determine the number of food-insecure veterans living in  
20 Bennington County;

1           (B) work with the Vermont Foodbank, farms in Bennington County  
2           that are operated by veterans, and other community partners to procure and  
3           distribute food to food-insecure veterans living in Bennington County;

4           (C) work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Bennington  
5           Community Based Outpatient Clinic to establish an on-site market that serves  
6           veterans visiting the Clinic for health care;

7           (D) work with farms in Bennington County that are operated by  
8           veterans to establish a procurement program at the Vermont Veterans' Home  
9           for the acquisition of produce, meat, and dairy products from farms that are  
10          operated by veterans;

11          (E) partner with the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center  
12          and other educational institutions in Bennington County to develop programs  
13          for students that combine education about the food system in Vermont and  
14          challenges facing veterans with community service activities related to the  
15          procurement, packaging, and distribution of food to veterans served by the  
16          Program; and

17          (F) develop a model to expand the Pilot Program to other veterans'  
18          clinics and groups throughout Vermont in order to allow them to create self-  
19          sustaining partnerships with local farms operated by veterans and the Vermont  
20          Foodbank to procure and distribute food to food-insecure veterans and their  
21          families.

1           (d) On or before January 15, 2020, the Chief Executive Officer of the  
2           Vermont Veterans' Home shall report to the House Committee on General,  
3           Housing, and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government  
4           Operations regarding:  
5                   (1) the initial experience of the Pilot Program;  
6                   (2) the number of food-insecure veterans in Bennington County; and  
7                   (3) the model for expanding the Pilot Program to other veterans' clinics  
8           and groups throughout Vermont.

9           Sec. 2. VERMONT VETERANS FOOD SECURITY PILOT PROGRAM;

10                   FISCAL YEAR 2019 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION

11           The sum of \$20,000.00 in general funds is appropriated in fiscal year 2020  
12           to the Vermont Veterans' Home to support the Vermont Veterans Food  
13           Security Pilot Program established pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 1606.

14           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.