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H.775

Introduced by Representatives Lanpher of Vergennes, Anthony of Barre City,
Austin of Colchester, Birong of Vergennes, Brumsted of
Shelburne, Burke of Brattleboro, Carroll of Bennington,
Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Colston of Winooski,
Cordes of Lincoln, Cupoli of Rutland City, Donovan of
Burlington, Elder of Starksboro, Fegard of Berkshire, Gonzalez
of Winooski, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Hooper
of Randolph, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon,
Killacky of South Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro,
LaLonde of South Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Mrowicki
of Putney, Ode of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Redmond
of Essex, Scheu of Middlebury, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of
Jericho, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard,
Walz of Barre City, White of Hartford, and Yacovone of
Morristown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Executive; Agency of Administration; State Youth Council

1 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create within
2 the Agency of Administration the State Youth Council to advise the Governor
3 and the General Assembly on policies that impact young people in Vermont.

4 An act relating to creating the State Youth Council

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

6 Sec. 1. FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND INTENT

7 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds the following:

8 (1) Young Vermonters are one of our State's most important resources.
9 Youths, nine to 26 years of age, represent 23 percent of the Vermont
10 population and reflect Vermont's diversity. They are a group of dynamic,
11 vibrant, and innovative individuals who are finding new ways to have their
12 voices heard and effect the change they wish to see in the world.

13 (2) Multiple perspectives strengthen decision making and policy
14 development by encouraging innovation, creativity, and change. Including the
15 unique perspectives of young people improves State policies and programs,
16 including youth-specific services.

17 (3) Vermont's economy depends on the participation of young people,
18 and empowering them to provide policy advice will help keep young
19 Vermonters in the State. It will also diversify our economy, making it more
20 competitive and sustainable.

1 (4) Young people have the right to be heard and respected. Almost all
2 government policies and decisions have an impact on young people's lives and
3 youth have the right to influence those decisions, both individually and
4 collectively. Furthermore, involving young people in political processes helps
5 build trust in democratic institutions, which in turn protects Vermont's
6 democracy.

7 (b) Purpose. The purpose of this act is to create a State Youth Council,
8 composed of young Vermonters who will have an official means of providing
9 advice on policies that impact young people in Vermont.

10 (c) Intent.

11 (1) The intent of creating the State Youth Council set forth in this act is
12 to enhance the State's progress in reaching the population-level outcomes set
13 forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311(b)(6) (Vermont's children and young people achieve
14 their potential) and (9) (Vermont has open, effective, and inclusive
15 government).

16 (2) The General Assembly further intends to consider the
17 recommendations of the initial State Youth Council created in this act and to
18 subsequently amend the Council's appointing authority, powers, and duties
19 accordingly.

1 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. chapter 45, subchapter 7 is added to read:

2 Subchapter 7. State Youth Council

3 § 2331. STATE YOUTH COUNCIL; MEMBERSHIP; POWERS AND
4 DUTIES

5 (a) Creation. There is created within the Agency of Administration the
6 State Youth Council (Council) to advise the Governor and the General
7 Assembly on issues affecting young people in Vermont.

8 (b) Membership. The Council shall be composed of 15 Vermont youths
9 between nine and 26 years of age. The interagency workgroup Youth Services
10 Advisory Council shall appoint one member from each county and one
11 statewide member who shall serve as Chair.

12 (1) The Agency of Administration shall assist the Youth Services
13 Advisory Council in notifying the public regarding the opportunity for youth to
14 serve on the Council, and the Youth Services Advisory Council shall accept
15 applications for service on the Council.

16 (2) The Youth Services Advisory Council shall appoint members to the
17 Council for three-year staggered terms and shall strive to appoint Council
18 members who represent a variety of youth in the State.

19 (c) Powers and duties. The Council shall:

20 (1) hold at least four public hearings annually in order to take testimony
21 on issues affecting Vermont youths;

1 (2) evaluate the State’s progress in reaching the population-level
2 outcomes set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311 and recommend to the Government
3 Accountability Committee any revisions to the population-level indicators for
4 those outcomes the Council finds necessary to better reflect data that impacts
5 Vermont youths; and

6 (3) provide advice to the Governor and the General Assembly on policy
7 changes necessary to improve the lives of Vermont youths. The Governor
8 shall meet annually with the Council to hear and receive the Council’s advice
9 and recommendations on policies that impact the youth of Vermont.

10 (d) Assistance. The Council shall have the administrative, technical, and
11 legal assistance of the Agency of Administration to assist with Council
12 directed activities. The Council shall also have support from the Youth
13 Services Advisory Council.

14 (e) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Council shall be
15 entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted
16 under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings per calendar
17 year. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency
18 of Administration.

19 Sec. 3. STATE YOUTH COUNCIL; INITIAL PROVISIONS

20 (a) Appointments. The Youth Services Advisory Council shall appoint the
21 initial State Youth Council created by Sec. 2 of this act on or before

1 November 1, 2020. The initial appointments shall be for one-, two-, and three-
2 year terms in order to provide staggered Council member terms.

3 (b) Training. From funds appropriated to the Agency of Administration, to
4 assist with State Youth Council directed activities and in consultation with the
5 Youth Services Advisory Council, the Agency shall provide to the State Youth
6 Council training on general State policies and on how to formulate policy
7 proposals.

8 (c) Duties. In addition to the State Youth Council's duties set forth in
9 Sec. 2 of this act, on or before November 1, 2021, the Council shall
10 recommend to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations
11 the manner in which its members should be appointed or elected and any other
12 amendments to its enabling law.

13 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on passage.