

1 S.4

2 Introduced by Senators Ingram and Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Human services; Advisory Council on Child Poverty and

6 Strengthening Families; childhood trauma; child protection

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the
8 charge of the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families
9 to include the mitigation of childhood trauma and the responsibilities of the
10 Child Protection Oversight Committee.

11 An act relating to amending the charge of the Advisory Council on Child
12 Poverty and Strengthening Families

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

14 Sec. 1. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 207, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

15 Sec. 1. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHILD PROTECTION, POVERTY,

16 AND TRAUMA AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

17 (a)(1) There is created the Advisory Council on Child Protection, Poverty,
18 and Trauma and Strengthening Families to:

19 (A) identify and examine structural and other issues in Vermont that:

20 (i) lead to families living in poverty; and

1 (ii) create conditions that prevent families from moving out of
2 poverty; ~~and~~

3 (B) advance policies that:

4 (i) promote financial stability and asset building;

5 (ii) support safety nets for families with low income; and

6 (iii) mitigate the effects of childhood poverty and trauma; and

7 (C) exercise oversight over Vermont's systems for youth justice and
8 protecting children from abuse and neglect, including:

9 (i) evaluating whether the branches, departments, agencies, and
10 persons that are responsible for protecting children from abuse and neglect are
11 effective;

12 (ii) determining if there are deficiencies in the system and
13 identifying the causes of those deficiencies;

14 (iii) evaluating which programs are the most cost effective; and

15 (iv) determining whether there is variation in policies, procedures,
16 practices, and outcomes between different areas of the State and the causes and
17 results of any such variation.

18 (2) The Advisory Council shall provide guidance and recommend
19 policies that enhance child protection and that either reduce incidences of or
20 mitigate the effects of childhood poverty and trauma. It shall serve as an
21 educational forum for both its members and the public. The Advisory Council

1 shall use data ~~better~~ to understand better existing and emerging challenges to
2 children and families living in ~~poverty~~ Vermont.

3 (3) The Advisory Council shall monitor the development and
4 implementation of the Agency of Human Services' childhood trauma response
5 plan required pursuant to 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 4 and other
6 Agency initiatives meant to reduce incidences of or mitigate the effects of
7 childhood trauma.

8 * * *

9 (d) Work products.

10 (1) Compilation of minutes. On or before January 1 of each year, the
11 Advisory Council shall submit to the General Assembly a compilation of its
12 meeting minutes from the previous calendar year that summarizes the Advisory
13 Council's activities and decisions.

14 (2) Recommendations. On or before January 1 of each year, the
15 Advisory Council shall submit a list of policy recommendations and legislative
16 priorities from the previous calendar year to the General Assembly or to the
17 appropriate State agency or organization that are aimed at protecting children
18 and reducing incidences of or mitigating the effects of childhood poverty and
19 trauma.

20 (3) Legislation. On or before November 15 of each year, the Advisory
21 Council may prepare legislation for introduction by one or more of its

1 legislative members that contains any of the Advisory Council's policy
2 recommendations for protecting children and reducing incidences of or
3 mitigating the effects of childhood poverty and trauma.

4 * * *

5 Sec. 2. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 207, Sec. 2 amending 2015 Acts and
6 Resolves No. 60, Sec. 23 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 23. JOINT LEGISLATIVE CHILD PROTECTION OVERSIGHT
8 COMMITTEE

9 * * *

10 (h) Sunset. On June 1, ~~2022~~ 2019, this section (creating the Joint
11 Legislative Child Protection Oversight Committee) is repealed and the
12 Committee shall cease to exist.

13 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

14 This act shall take effect on passage; provided, however, that if the date of
15 passage is after June 1, 2019, then notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 2 shall
16 apply retroactively to June 1, 2019.