

1 S.322

2 Introduced by Senators Parent, Brock and Perchlik

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Taxation; property taxes

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
7 working group to analyze how to make Vermont's tax system more fair to
8 homebuyers. The Working Group will specifically address problems related to
9 our current homestead declaration system and the inability of a homebuyer to
10 have a purchased property reappraised in a timely manner.

11 An act relating to establishing a Homebuyers Working Group

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

13 Sec. 1. HOMEBUYERS WORKING GROUP; REPORT

14 (a) Creation; purpose. There is created the Homebuyers Working Group to
15 evaluate the current property tax requirements affecting new and first-time
16 homebuyers and recommend to the Vermont General Assembly policy or
17 requirements that the State should enact to facilitate the purchase and sale of
18 residential property. Specifically, the Working Group shall consider
19 Vermont's current system of identifying homestead and nonhomestead
20 property for tax purposes and recommend ways to provide new homeowners

1 flexibility in their homestead declarations to account for the timing of
2 purchases and occupancies at other times of the year besides April 1. The
3 Working Group shall also consider the tax burden imposed by property
4 appraisals that do not reflect the current purchase price and recommend
5 changes to provide relief for new purchasers during the period between
6 purchase and reappraisal.

7 (b) Membership. The Homebuyers Working Group shall be composed of
8 the following members:

9 (1) a member of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees;

10 (2) a member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker
11 of the House;

12 (3) a representative of the Department of Taxes, selected by the
13 Commissioner;

14 (4) a representative from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns,
15 selected by its board;

16 (5) a representative from the real estate industry, selected by the
17 President Pro Tem of the Senate;

18 (6) a representative from the home building industry, selected by the
19 Speaker of the House.

1 (c) Assistance. The Homeowners Working Group shall have the
2 administrative, technical, financial, and legal assistance of the Department of
3 Taxes, the Office of Legislative Council, and the Joint Fiscal Office.

4 (d) Report. On or before December 1, 2020, the Homebuyers Working
5 Group shall submit to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House
6 Committee on Ways and Means findings and recommendations required under
7 subsection (a) of this section.

8 (e) Meetings.

9 (1) The Office of Legislative Council shall call the first meeting of the
10 Homeowners Working Group to occur on or before July 1, 2020.

11 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
12 first meeting.

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

14 (4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on February 1, 2021.

15 (f) Compensation and reimbursement.

16 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
17 Assembly, a legislative member of the Working Group serving in his or her
18 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
19 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than
20 six meetings.

1 (2) Other members of the Working Group shall be entitled to per diem
2 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
3 § 1010 for not more than six meetings.

4 (3) Payments to members of the Working Group authorized under this
5 subsection shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on passage.