

Senate Calendar

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020

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**ACTION CALENDAR
UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF JANUARY 7, 2020
GOVERNOR'S VETOES**

S. 37.

An act relating to medical monitoring.

Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll): Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two-thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

(For text of veto message, see Senate Calendar for January 7, 2020, page 1.)

S. 169.

An act relating to firearms procedures.

Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll): Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two-thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

(For text of veto message, see Senate Calendar for January 7, 2020, page 9.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 12, 2020

Second Reading

Favorable

S. 287.

An act relating to the contractual rights of members of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

Pending Question: Shall the bill be read the third time?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 13, 2020

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 166.

An act relating to the dissolution of the State Board of Education.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Education.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Transfer of Certain Responsibilities of the State Board of Education to
the Secretary of Education * * *

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

§ 164. STATE BOARD; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

The State Board shall ~~evaluate education policy proposals, including timely evaluation of policies presented by the Governor and Secretary; engage local school board members and the broader education community; and establish and advance education policy for the State of Vermont and, consistent with the provisions of this title, its own rules, and rules adopted by the Secretary, establish and regularly update a long-term strategic vision for the delivery of educational services in Vermont; advise the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Secretary of Education on high priority educational policies and issues as they arise; and act in accordance with Legislative mandates, including the adoption of rules and executing special assignments.~~ In addition to other specified duties, the Board shall:

(1) Establish such advisory commissions as in the judgment of the Board will be of assistance to it in carrying out its duties. Advisory commission members shall serve with or without compensation at the discretion of the Board but shall receive actual expenses incurred in pursuance of their duties.

(2) Have the authority to enter into agreements with school districts, municipalities, states, the United States, foundations, agencies, or individuals for service, educational programs, or research projects.

(3) Examine and determine all appeals that by law are made to it and prescribe rules of practice in respect thereto, not inconsistent with law.

(4) ~~Review and comment on an Agency budget prepared by the Secretary for the Governor.~~ [Repealed.]

(5) [Repealed.]

(6) ~~Make regulations governing the attendance and records of attendance of all students and the deportment of students attending public schools.~~ [Repealed.]

(7) Adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as necessary or appropriate for the execution of its powers and duties and of the powers and duties of all persons under its supervision and control to carry out the powers and duties of the Board as directed by the General Assembly, within the limitations of legislative intent, including rules concerning:

(A) the operation and administration of the State Board of Education;

(B) educational quality standards;

(C) independent school program approval, including:

(i) approval of distance learning schools;

(ii) post-secondary schools; and

(iii) private kindergarten approval;

(D) special education, including special education finance and census-based funding;

(E) school accountability system based on student achievement;

(F) supervisory union and school district organization; and

(G) proposals for alternative structures under 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46.

(8) Review and comment on rules proposed by the Agency of Education prior to pre-filing the proposed rules with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules under 3 V.S.A. § 837.

(9) ~~Implement~~ Develop and continually update standards for student performance in appropriate content areas and at appropriate intervals in the continuum from ~~kindergarten~~ prekindergarten to grade 12 and methods of assessment to determine attainment of the standards for student performance. The standards shall be rigorous, challenging, and designed to prepare students to participate in and contribute to the democratic process and to compete in the global marketplace. The standards shall include a standard for reading level proficiency for students completing grade three.

(10) [Repealed.]

~~(11) If deemed advisable, determine educational standards for admission to and graduation from the public schools. [Repealed.]~~

(12) [Repealed.]

~~(13) Be the State Board for the program of adult education and literacy and perform all the duties and powers prescribed by law pertaining to adult education and literacy and to act as the State approval agency for educational institutions conducting programs of adult education and literacy. [Repealed.]~~

(14) ~~Adopt rules for approval of independent schools. [Repealed.]~~

~~(15) Establish criteria governing the establishment of a system for the receipt, deposit, accounting, and disbursement of all funds by supervisory unions and school districts. [Repealed.]~~

~~(16) In cooperation with the Secretary, ensure that the Agency develops information, plans, and assistance to aid in making technology and telecommunications available and coordinated in all school districts. The State Board shall develop guidelines for distribution of federal, State, or private funds designated for the development or expansion of distance learning technologies. The guidelines shall encourage, consistent with any terms or conditions established by the funding source, collaboration between schools and school districts to realize economic and educational efficiencies. [Repealed.]~~

~~(17) Report annually on the condition of education statewide and on a supervisory union and school district basis. The report shall include information on attainment of standards for student performance adopted under subdivision (9) of this section, number and types of complaints of hazing, harassment, or bullying made pursuant to chapter 9, subchapter 5 of this title and responses to the complaints, financial resources and expenditures, and community social indicators. The report shall be organized and presented in a way that is easily understandable by the general public and that enables each school, school district, and supervisory union to determine its strengths and weaknesses. To the extent consistent with State and federal privacy laws and regulations, data on hazing, harassment, or bullying incidents shall be disaggregated by incident type, including disaggregation by ethnic groups, racial groups, religious groups, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and English language learner status. The Secretary shall use the information in the report to determine whether students in each school, school district, and supervisory union are provided educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other schools, school districts, and supervisory unions pursuant to subsection 165(b) of this title. [Repealed.]~~

~~(18) Ensure that Vermont's students, including students enrolled in secondary career technical education, have access to a substantially equal educational opportunity by developing a system to evaluate the equalizing effects of Vermont's education finance system and education quality standards under section 165 of this title. [Repealed.]~~

~~(19) [Repealed.]~~

~~(20) Pursuant to section 806g of this title, constitute the State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and appoint to the Council a Compact Commissioner and Military Family~~

~~Education Liaison, who may be the same person. The Board may appoint additional members. [Repealed.]~~

~~(21) Report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the progress the Board has made on the development of education policy for the State current condition and future prospects of education in Vermont.~~

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 212 is amended to read:

§ 212. SECRETARY'S DUTIES GENERALLY

The Secretary shall ~~execute those policies~~ adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 necessary to execute the powers and responsibilities given to the Secretary under this title or otherwise required or authorized by State or federal law and as directed by the General Assembly, except that the Secretary shall not adopt rules in areas reserved to the State Board of Education under section 164 of this title, implement rules adopted by the Secretary and the State Board in the legal exercise of its their powers, and shall:

* * *

(23) Make rules governing the attendance and records of attendance of all students and the department of students attending public schools.

(24) Establish criteria governing the establishment of a system for the receipt, deposit, accounting, and disbursement of all funds by supervisory unions and school districts.

(25) Provide guidance to school districts to make technology and telecommunications available and coordinated in all school districts, including guidelines for the distribution of federal, State, and private funds designated for the development or expansion of distance learning technologies. The guidelines shall encourage, consistent with any terms or conditions established by the funding source, collaboration between schools and among school districts to realize economic and educational efficiencies.

(26) Report annually on the condition of education statewide and on a supervisory union and school district basis. The report shall include information on attainment of standards for student performance adopted under subdivision 164(9) of this title, number and types of complaints of hazing, harassment, or bullying made pursuant to chapter 9, subchapter 5 of this title. The report shall also include information on the and responses to the complaints, financial resources and expenditures, and community social indicators. The report shall be organized and presented in a way that is easily understandable by the general public and that enables each school, school district, and supervisory union to determine its strengths and weaknesses. To the extent consistent with State and federal privacy laws and regulations, data

on hazing, harassment, or bullying incidents shall be disaggregated by incident type, including disaggregation by ethnic groups, racial groups, religious groups, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and English language learner status. The Secretary shall use the information in the report to determine whether students in each school, school district, and supervisory union are provided educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other schools, school districts, and supervisory unions pursuant to subsection 165(b) of this title.

(27) Ensure that Vermont's students, including students enrolled in secondary career technical education, have access to a substantially equal educational opportunity by developing a system to evaluate the equalizing effects of Vermont's education finance system and education quality standards under section 165 of this title.

(28) Be responsible for the program of adult education and literacy and perform all the duties and powers prescribed by law pertaining to adult education and literacy and to act as the State approval agency for educational institutions conducting programs of adult education and literacy.

(29) Submit proposed rules to the State Board for review and comment prior to prefiling them with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules under 3 V.S.A. § 837 within a time frame that accommodates the State Board's review of the proposed rules and the Secretary's ability to respond to the State Board's comments.

* * * Conforming Changes to Law in 16 V.S.A. chapter 3
(State Board of Education) * * *

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 167 is amended to read:

§ 167. HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATE

The ~~State Board~~ Secretary is authorized to grant high school equivalency certificates to any person who has not been graduated from a high school on the basis of credits earned in the U.S. Armed Forces, credits earned in approved schools for adults, or satisfactory scores obtained on approved examinations.

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 175 is amended to read:

§ 175. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS;
CLOSING

(a) When an institution of higher education, whether or not chartered in this State, proposes to discontinue the regular course of instruction, either

permanently or for a temporary period other than a customary vacation period, the institution shall:

- (1) promptly inform the State Board Secretary;
- (2) prepare the academic record of each current and former student in a form satisfactory to the State Board Secretary and including interpretive information required by the Board Secretary; and
- (3) deliver the records to a person designated by the State Board Secretary to act as permanent repository for the institution's records, together with the reasonable cost of entering and maintaining the records.

* * *

(d) When an institution of higher education is unable or unwilling to comply substantially with the record preparation and delivery requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the State Board Secretary shall bring an action in Superior Court to compel compliance with this section, and may in a proper case obtain temporary custody of the records.

(e) When an institution of higher education is unable or unwilling to comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the State Board Secretary may expend State funds necessary to ensure the proper storage and availability of the institution's records. The Attorney General shall then seek recovery under this subsection, in the name of the State, of all of the State's incurred costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, arising from the failure to comply. Claims under this subsection shall be a lien on all the property of a defaulting institution, until all claims under this subsection are satisfied. The lien shall take effect from the date of filing notice thereof in the records of the town or towns where property of the defaulting institution is located.

(f) The State Board shall adopt rules under this section for its proper administration. The rules may include provisions for preparing and maintaining transferred records. Persons acting as a repository of records are bound only by maintenance provisions to which they agreed before receiving transferred records.

* * *

Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 176 is amended to read:

§ 176. POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS CHARTERED IN VERMONT

* * *

(d) Exemptions. The following are exempt from the requirements of this section except for the requirements of subdivision (c)(1)(C) of this section:

* * *

(4) Postsecondary schools that are accredited. The following postsecondary institutions are accredited, meet the criteria for exempt status, and are authorized to operate educational programs beyond secondary education, including programs leading to a degree or certificate: Bennington College, Champlain College, ~~College of St. Joseph~~, Goddard College, ~~Green Mountain College~~, Landmark College, Marlboro College, Middlebury College, New England Culinary Institute, Norwich University, Saint Michael's College, SIT Graduate Institute, ~~Southern Vermont College~~, Sterling College, Vermont College of Fine Arts, and Vermont Law School. This authorization is provided solely to the extent necessary to ensure institutional compliance with federal financial aid-related regulations, and it does not affect, rescind, or supersede any preexisting authorizations, charters, or other forms of recognition or authorization.

* * *

(e) Issuance. On proper application, the State Board shall issue a certificate of approval or a certificate of degree-granting authority, or both, to an applicant whose goals, objectives, programs, and resources, including personnel, curriculum, finances, and facilities, are found by the State Board to be in accordance with its rules for approval of postsecondary schools and adequate and appropriate for the stated purpose and for the protection of students and the public interest. The certificate shall be for a term not exceeding five years. The certificate may be subject to conditions, terms, or limitations.

* * *

Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 214 is added to read:

§ 214. STATE COUNCIL FOR THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Pursuant to section 806g of this title, the Agency shall constitute the State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and appoint to the Council a Compact Commissioner and Military Family Education Liaison, who may be the same person. The Secretary may appoint additional members.

Sec. 7. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES; AGENCY OF
EDUCATION

(a) Except for the State Board of Education rules referenced in subsection (b) of this section, the rules of the State Board of Education in effect on the effective date of this act shall constitute the rules of the Agency of Education

until amended or repealed, and all references in those rules to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education shall be deemed to refer to the Secretary of Education and all references to the Department of Education shall be deemed to refer to the Agency of Education.

(b) The following rules shall continue to be the rules of the State Board of Education:

(1) Series 1200—State Board of Education;

(2) Series 1320—Special Education Finance and Census-based Funding;

(3) Series 2000—Educational Quality Standards;

(4) Series 2200—Independent School Program Approval, including:

(A) 2231—Approval of Distance Learning Schools;

(B) 2240—Post-secondary Schools; and

(C) 2270—Private Kindergarten Approval;

(5) Series 2360—Special Education;

(6) Series 2500—School Accountability System Based on Student Achievement;

(7) Series 3000—School District Organization; and

(8) Series 3400—Proposals for Alternative Structures under Act 46.

* * * Conforming Changes to Law in 16 V.S.A. Excluding Chapter 3 (State Board of Education) * * *

* * *

Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 133 is amended to read:

§ 133. SUPERVISOR; COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION

(a) ~~The Secretary with the approval of the State Board~~ may appoint one qualified person to supervise the preparation of appropriate curricula for use in the public schools, to promote programs for the preparation of teachers to teach these curricula, and to assist in the development of comprehensive health education programs.

* * *

Sec. 9. 16 V.S.A. § 136 is amended to read:

§ 136. WELLNESS PROGRAM; ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WELLNESS
AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH

* * *

(b) The Secretary ~~with the approval of the State Board~~ shall establish an Advisory Council on Wellness and Comprehensive Health that shall include at least three members associated with the health services field. The members shall serve without compensation but shall receive their actual expenses incurred in connection with their duties relating to wellness and comprehensive health programs. The Council shall assist the Agency to plan, coordinate, and encourage wellness and comprehensive health programs in the public schools.

* * *

Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 242 is amended to read:

§ 242. DUTIES OF SUPERINTENDENTS

The superintendent shall be the chief executive officer for the supervisory union board and for each school board within the supervisory union, and shall:

* * *

(4)(A) Provide data and information required by the Secretary and by using a format approved by the Secretary to:

(i) Report budgetary data for the subsequent school year and fiscal year.

(ii) Report all financial operations within the supervisory union to the Secretary ~~and State Board~~ for the preceding school year on or before August 15 of each year.

(iii) Report all financial operations for each member school district to the Secretary ~~and State Board~~ for the preceding school year on or before August 15 of each year.

* * *

Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 244 is amended to read:

§ 244. DUTIES OF PRINCIPALS

* * *

(b) Without the approval of the ~~State Board~~ Secretary, secondary school principals shall not be charged with supervisory responsibility outside the secondary school.

Sec. 12. 16 V.S.A. § 256 is amended to read:

§ 256. CONTINUED VALIDITY OF CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK;
MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

* * *

(d) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary may adopt rules regarding maintenance of records.

Sec. 13. 16 V.S.A. § 261a is amended to read:

§ 261a. DUTIES OF SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD

(a) Duties. The board of each supervisory union shall:

* * *

(4) In accordance with criteria established by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary, establish and implement a plan for receiving and disbursing federal and State funds distributed by the Agency of Education, including funds awarded under P.L. 89-10, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended.

* * *

(6) Provide special education services on behalf of its member districts and, except as provided in section 43 of this title, compensatory and remedial services, and provide or coordinate the provision of other educational services as directed by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary or local boards; provided, however, if a supervisory union determines that services would be provided more efficiently and effectively in whole or in part at the district level, then it may ask the Secretary to grant it a waiver from this provision.

* * *

Sec. 14. 16 V.S.A. § 471 is amended to read:

§ 471. APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS

(a) The provisions of this title relating to the administration and maintenance of public schools, school meetings, and voting therein, to grand lists, to the raising and expending of school monies, to monies apportioned by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary, to sharing in other State aid, to the election, appointment, powers, duties, and liabilities of school officers, to elementary and higher instruction, to transportation, board, and attendance of students, to truancy and truant officers, to furnishing of textbooks and appliances, and to

all other matters pertaining to schools in a town district, unless otherwise provided, and if not inconsistent with the rights granted by their charters, shall apply to schools maintained, similar school officers, and all matters pertaining to schools in incorporated school districts.

* * *

Sec. 15. 16 V.S.A. § 551 is amended to read:

§ 551. APPLICATION OF LAWS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Unless otherwise specifically provided in statute with respect to a class of school district or in a municipal charter, the laws of this title, the laws pertaining to municipal corporations, and the rules of the State Board and the Agency shall apply to all school districts.

Sec. 16. 16 V.S.A. § 559 is amended to read:

§ 559. PUBLIC BIDS

* * *

(b) When a school construction contract exceeds \$500,000.00:

(1) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall establish, in consultation with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and with other knowledgeable sources, general rules for the prequalification of bidders on such a contract. The Department of Buildings and General Services, upon notice by the Secretary, shall provide to school boards undergoing construction projects suggestions and recommendations on bidders qualified to provide construction services.

* * *

(d) Construction management. The school board may contract for the service of construction management to assist in a school construction project. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and other knowledgeable sources, shall adopt rules defining the term “construction management” and specifying the nature of bidding requirements under construction management services in order to assist school boards to comply with the public bidding requirements of this section.

* * *

(f) Waivers. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall by rule adopt standards governing the authority of the Secretary to grant individual waivers to the provisions of this section. The rules, at minimum, shall require the school board seeking the waiver to demonstrate to the Secretary that it is unable to

comply with the bidding procedure through no fault of its own, and that it has proposed an alternative method of minimizing costs through a fair and public process.

(g) Violations. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary may deny State aid for school construction and for debt service on a project that proceeds in violation of this section.

Sec. 17. 16 V.S.A. § 563 is amended to read:

§ 563. POWERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS; FORM OF VOTE

The school board of a school district, in addition to other duties and authority specifically assigned by law:

* * *

(8) Shall establish and maintain a system for receipt, deposit, disbursement, accounting, control, and reporting procedures that meets the criteria established by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary pursuant to subdivision ~~164(15)~~ 212(24) of this title and that ensures that all payments are lawful and in accordance with a budget adopted or amended by the school board. The school board may authorize a subcommittee, the superintendent of schools, or a designated employee of the school board to examine claims against the district for school expenses and draw orders for such as shall be allowed by it payable to the party entitled thereto. Such orders shall state definitely the purpose for which they are drawn and shall serve as full authority to the treasurer to make such payments. It shall be lawful for a school board to submit to its treasurer a certified copy of those portions of the board minutes, properly signed by the clerk and chair, or a majority of the board, showing to whom, and for what purpose each payment is to be made by the treasurer, and such certified copy shall serve as full authority to the treasurer to make the payments as thus approved.

* * *

(21) Shall have the authority to engage in short-term borrowing to cover the costs of those portions of projects approved by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary and that will be reimbursed by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary under sections 3447-3456 of this title but which payments will be delayed. However, the board shall borrow under this subdivision only amounts that it would receive if the ~~State Board~~ Secretary could fund its obligation and may borrow no earlier than the time it would have received the funds. The State shall not pay for costs of borrowing funds under this subdivision.

* * *

(24) Shall adopt a policy that, in accordance with rules adopted by the ~~State Board of Education~~ Secretary, will integrate home study students into its schools through enrollment in courses, participation in cocurricular and extracurricular activities, and use of facilities.

(25) Shall, if it is a school board of a school district that maintains a secondary school, upon request, award a high school diploma to any Vermont resident who served in the military in World War II, the Korean War, or during the Vietnam era, was honorably separated from active federal military service, and does not hold a high school diploma. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall develop and make available an application form for veterans who wish to request a high school diploma.

* * *

Sec. 18. 16 V.S.A. § 570 is amended to read:

§ 570. HARASSMENT, HAZING, AND BULLYING PREVENTION POLICIES

* * *

(d) Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall:

* * *

(2) establish an Advisory Council to review and coordinate school and statewide activities relating to the prevention of and response to harassment, hazing, and bullying. The Council shall report annually in January to the ~~State Board~~ Secretary and the House and Senate Committees on Education. The Council shall include:

* * *

Sec. 19. 16 V.S.A. § 701a is amended to read:

§ 701a. APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS

* * *

(b) The provisions of general law relating to the administration and maintenance of schools, to school meetings and voting at the meetings, to grand lists, to the raising and expending of school money, to money apportioned by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary, to sharing in other State or federal aid, to the election, appointments, powers, duties, and liabilities of school officers, to secondary and elementary instruction, to transportation, board, and attendance of students, to textbooks and appliances, and to all other matters pertaining to schools in a town school district, unless inconsistent with this act or otherwise provided for in this subchapter, shall apply to schools maintained,

similar school officers, and all matters pertaining to schools of the union school district.

Sec. 20. 16 V.S.A. § 829 is amended to read:

§ 829. PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

* * *

(c) Prequalification. Pursuant to rules jointly developed and overseen by the Secretaries of Education and of Human Services and adopted by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary of Education pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, the Agencies jointly may determine that a private or public provider of prekindergarten education is qualified for purposes of this section and include the provider in a publicly accessible database of prequalified providers. At a minimum, the rules shall define the process by which a provider applies for and maintains prequalification status, shall identify the minimum quality standards for prequalification, and shall include the following requirements:

* * *

(e) Rules. The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner for Children and Families shall jointly develop and agree to rules ~~and present them to the State Board~~ for adoption by the Secretary of Education under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as follows:

* * *

Sec. 21. 16 V.S.A. § 1045 is amended to read:

§ 1045. DRIVER TRAINING COURSE

(a) A driver education and training course, approved by the Agency of Education and the Department of Motor Vehicles shall be made available to students whose parent or guardian is a resident of Vermont and who have reached their 15th birthday and who are regularly enrolled in a public or independent high school approved by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary of Education.

(b) After June 30, 1984, all driver education courses shall include a course of instruction, approved by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary and the council on the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving.

* * *

Sec. 22. 16 V.S.A. § 1071 is amended to read:

§ 1071. SCHOOL YEAR AND SCHOOL DAY

* * *

(b) Hours of operation. Within the minimum set by the ~~State Board Secretary~~, the school board shall fix the number of hours that shall constitute a school day, subject to change upon the order of the ~~State Board Secretary~~.

(c) Unanticipated closings. When a public school is closed for cause beyond the control of the school board, it may petition the ~~State Board Secretary~~ for a waiver of the requirements of this section. The petition shall be filed with the ~~State Board Secretary~~ within 10 days of each occurrence and not later than June 15 of the school year involved; ~~and the State Board shall act on the petition at its next meeting. If the petition is approved and a waiver granted, the school district shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of this section. If the State Board fails to act at that meeting, the petition shall be deemed to have been approved and the waiver granted.~~

* * *

(g) Upon application of one or more school districts, after approval by the voters of each such district, the ~~State Board Secretary~~ may grant a waiver of the requirements of subsection (a) of this section if it is satisfied that equivalent educational programming will be maintained or improved. The waiver may be granted for any purpose, including the conservation of energy.

Sec. 23. 16 V.S.A. § 1162 is amended to read:

§ 1162. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

(a) A superintendent or principal may, pursuant to policies adopted by the school board that are consistent with ~~State Board Agency~~ rules, suspend a student for up to 10 school days or, with the approval of the board of the school district, expel a student for up to the remainder of the school year or up to 90 school days, whichever is longer, for misconduct:

* * *

Sec. 24. 16 V.S.A. § 1165 is amended to read:

§ 1165. ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

(a) The ~~State Board Secretary~~, in consultation with local school boards, the alcohol and drug division, the law enforcement authorities, and the juvenile court system shall formulate a general policy for the education, discipline, and referral for rehabilitation of students who are involved with alcohol or drug abuse on school property or at school functions.

(b) The ~~State Board Secretary~~ shall adopt rules for all school districts that include standards consistent with due process of law for discipline, suspension, or dismissal of students and recommended procedures for education and for referral for treatment and rehabilitation.

(c) Each school district shall adopt its own policy consistent with the ~~State Board's~~ Agency rules setting forth: recommended procedures for education; referral for treatment, counseling, and rehabilitation; and standards consistent with due process of law for discipline, suspension, or dismissal of students in accordance with section 1162 of this title. Nothing in this section is intended to mandate local school districts to employ counselors for treatment or rehabilitation.

* * *

Sec. 25. 16 V.S.A. § 1224 is amended to read:

§ 1224. REPORTS

The superintendent shall include in his or her annual report to the school board of each district data regarding the students in the district who have been transported or boarded under the provisions of this chapter and the associated expenses. Annually, at a time fixed by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary, the superintendent shall report to the ~~Board~~ Secretary regarding the students transported or boarded under the provisions of this chapter and the associated expenses.

Sec. 26. 16 V.S.A. § 1262b is amended to read:

§ 1262b. RULES

The ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall adopt rules governing grants under section 1262a of this title. The rules shall provide for grants from State funds in accordance with federal guidelines for food programs. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary may adopt other rules that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter.

Sec. 27. 16 V.S.A. § 1321 is amended to read:

§ 1321. FORM AND CONTENTS OF REGISTER

~~With the approval of the State Board, the~~ The Secretary shall prescribe the content of school registers used to keep records of student enrollment and daily attendance and to obtain statistical and other information from teachers and school officers. Schools shall maintain an electronic system for recording enrollment and attendance

Sec. 28. 16 V.S.A. § 1388 is amended to read:

§ 1388. STOCK SUPPLY AND EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF
EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Designated personnel” means a school employee, agent, or volunteer who has been authorized by the school administrator to provide and administer epinephrine auto-injectors under this section and who has completed the training required by ~~State Board~~ Agency policy.

* * *

(f) On or before January 1, 2014, the ~~State Board~~ Secretary, in consultation with the Department of Health, shall adopt policies for managing students with life-threatening allergies and other individuals with life-threatening allergies who may be present at a school. The policies shall:

* * *

(5) require each school to make publicly available protocols and procedures developed in accordance with the policies adopted by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary under this section.

Sec. 29. 16 V.S.A. § 1522 is amended to read:

§ 1522. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(10) “CTE tuition” means the amount calculated by subtracting from total regional technical CTE center costs all expenditures from State and federal grants except for incentive grants, adult education grants, or other State grants as defined by ~~State Board~~ Agency rule, then dividing the result by the sum of the actual number of full-time equivalent out-of-state students and the average of the full-time equivalent Vermont students for the three prior years.

* * *

Sec. 30. 16 V.S.A. § 1531 is amended to read:

§ 1531. RESPONSIBILITY OF ~~STATE BOARD~~ SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

(a) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary has overall responsibility for the effectiveness of career technical education. This requires the ~~Board~~ Secretary to collect suitable information and to take appropriate steps within its legal, financial, and personnel resources to ensure that:

* * *

~~(b) In order to provide regional career technical education services efficiently, the State Board shall designate a service region for each career technical center. However, the Board may designate a service region for two~~

~~or more comprehensive high schools if that region is not served by a career technical center.~~

~~(c) For a school district that is geographically isolated from a Vermont career technical center, the State Board may approve a career technical center in another state as the career technical center that district students may attend. In this case, the school district shall receive transportation assistance pursuant to section 1563 of this title and tuition assistance pursuant to section 1561(c) of this title. Any student who is a resident in the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union and who is enrolled at public expense in the Charles H. McCann Technical School or the Franklin County Technical School shall be considered to be attending an approved career technical center in another state pursuant to this subsection, and, if the student is from a school district eligible for a small schools support grant pursuant to section 4015 of this title, the student's full-time equivalency shall be computed according to time attending the school.~~

Sec. 31. 16 V.S.A. § 1531a is added to read:

§ 1531a. RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE BOARD

(a) In order to provide regional career technical education services efficiently, the State Board shall designate a service region for each career technical center. However, the Board may designate a service region for two or more comprehensive high schools if that region is not served by a career technical center.

(b) For a school district that is geographically isolated from a Vermont career technical center, the State Board may approve a career technical center in another state as the career technical center that district students may attend. In this case, the school district shall receive transportation assistance pursuant to section 1563 of this title and tuition assistance pursuant to section 1561(c) of this title. Any student who is a resident in the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union and who is enrolled at public expense in the Charles H. McCann Technical School or the Franklin County Technical School shall be considered to be attending an approved career technical center in another state pursuant to this subsection, and, if the student is from a school district eligible for a small schools support grant pursuant to section 4015 of this title, the student's full-time equivalency shall be computed according to time attending the school.

Sec. 32. 16 V.S.A. § 1532 is amended to read:

§ 1532. MINIMUM STANDARDS; MEASUREMENT OF STANDARDS

(a) The State Board Secretary shall adopt by rule:

(1) Minimum standards for the operation and performance of career technical centers that include the education quality standards adopted by the State Board under subdivision 164(9) and section 165 of this title.

(2) Standards for student performance based on the standards adopted by the State Board under subdivision 164(9) of this title and standards for industry recognized credentials.

* * *

Sec. 33. 16 V.S.A. § 1533 is amended to read:

§ 1533. CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER EVALUATION

(a) At least once in each period of five years, and in coordination with the Vermont Advisory Council on Career Technical Education, the Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of each career technical center in the State. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule shall prescribe the method for conducting these evaluations.

(b) Evaluations of career technical centers shall consider at least the following areas:

(1) compliance with this chapter and the rules of the ~~State Board~~ Agency;

* * *

Sec. 34. 16 V.S.A. § 1534 is amended to read:

§ 1534. COURSE OF STUDY EVALUATION

(a) At least once in each period of five years, and in coordination with the Vermont Advisory Council on Career Technical Education, the Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of each course of study offered by any career technical center in the State. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule shall prescribe the method for conducting these evaluations.

* * *

Sec. 35. 16 V.S.A. § 1544 is amended to read:

§ 1544. CAREER TECHNICAL COURSES IN OTHER SCHOOLS

Subject to any direction and regulations as to courses, teachers, or equipment that the ~~State Board~~ Secretary of Education may prescribe by rule, high schools may include within their courses of study pretechnical or career technical courses, or both. Before establishing such a program, a high school shall consult with the regional advisory board for its CTE service region.

Sec. 36. 16 V.S.A. § 1545 is amended to read:

§ 1545. CREDITS AND GRADES EARNED

(a) Grades earned in a course offered within a CTE program ~~approved by the State Board~~ that complies with Agency rules shall not be altered by any public school or approved or recognized independent school in Vermont and shall be applied by the school toward any State graduation requirements in accordance with rules adopted by the ~~State Board Secretary~~. Any ~~State Board Agency~~ Agency rules regarding earning of credits shall allow flexibility with respect to the integration of CTE education and other academic courses.

(b) The credits earned for a career technical education program ~~approved by the State Board~~ that complies with Agency rules shall be honored by any public or independent school within Vermont. If necessary to enable a student to participate in career technical education and graduate with his or her class, the credits earned shall be applied toward any school district or independent school graduation requirements exceeding the minimum number of credits required by the ~~State Board Agency rule~~. The school board of the high school from which the student wishes to graduate shall make a determination as to whether the credits shall be applied toward graduation requirements. A decision of a school board may be appealed to the Secretary who shall construe this section to favor participation in career technical education.

* * *

Sec. 37. 16 V.S.A. § 1552 is amended to read:

§ 1552. SECONDARY STUDENT TUITION

(a) Each career technical center shall establish a tuition charge for secondary career technical education. The amount shall reflect the actual cost, as defined by Agency rule ~~of the State Board~~, of attendance in the career technical courses offered by the center. The tuition charge shall be reduced proportionally for students enrolled in a part-time program.

(b) Secondary students are eligible for tuition assistance in career technical education provided in another state when the ~~State Board Secretary~~ determines that such career technical education can properly serve the needs of Vermont students.

* * *

Sec. 38. 16 V.S.A. § 1562 is amended to read:

§ 1562. TRYOUT CLASSES

From the monies annually available for use in career technical education, the ~~State Board~~ Secretary may reimburse part of the program cost attributable to programs designed to assist students in deciding whether to enroll in career technical courses. As a condition of such assistance, the program shall demonstrate that it has taken steps to encourage each student to consider enrolling in courses not traditional for that student's gender.

Sec. 39. 16 V.S.A. § 1563 is amended to read:

§ 1563. TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

* * *

(c) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

Sec. 40. 16 V.S.A. § 1565 is amended to read:

§ 1565. SALARY ASSISTANCE

(a) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall reimburse a school district operating a career technical center for a portion of its cost in paying the salary of the following persons:

* * *

(b) Assistance under this section shall be determined by a formula and standards established by rule of the ~~State Board~~ Secretary. The formula and those standards:

* * *

Sec. 41. 16 V.S.A. § 1568 is amended to read:

§ 1568. REPORTING OF INFORMATION

(a) Annually, in accordance with a time line, format, and process established by ~~State Board~~ Agency rule, each CTE center shall report its costs and student enrollment, achievement, and performance measures to the Secretary. CTE center financial accounts shall be kept separately from those of the host high school in accordance with rules adopted by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary, which shall clearly delineate relevant costs and revenues.

(b) If a CTE center fails to file financial or student information required under this section within the timelines established by Agency rule of the ~~State Board~~, the Secretary may withhold funds due under this chapter and shall subtract \$100.00 per business day from funds due the center under this chapter.

The Secretary may waive the \$100.00 penalty upon appeal by the center for good cause.

Sec. 42. 16 V.S.A. § 1577 is amended to read:

§ 1577. DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE BOARD

The governance board of a CTE center authorized under this subchapter, in addition to other duties and authority specifically assigned by law to the governing authority of a CTE center, shall have the following duties and authority:

* * *

(6) To establish and maintain a system for receipt, deposit, disbursement, accounting, control, and reporting procedures that meets the criteria established by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary pursuant to subdivision ~~164(15)~~ 212(24) of this title and that ensures all payments are lawful and in accordance with the budget adopted pursuant to terms approved by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary. The ~~Board~~ Secretary may authorize a subcommittee, a superintendent of schools, or a designated employee of the ~~Board~~ Agency to examine claims against the district for center expenses, and draw orders for such as shall be allowed by it payable to the party entitled thereto. Such orders shall state definitely the purpose for which they are drawn, and shall serve as full authority to the treasurer to make such payments. It shall be lawful for a board to submit to its treasurer a certified copy of those portions of the board minutes, properly signed by the clerk and chair, or a majority of the board, showing to whom, and for what purpose, each payment is to be made by the treasurer, and the certified copy shall serve as full authority to the treasurer to make the approved payments.

* * *

Sec. 43. 16 V.S.A. § 1601 is amended to read:

§ 1601. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) “Industry competency standards” ~~mean~~ means performance criteria developed jointly by educators and business representatives and adopted by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary that define skills and knowledge that are needed in the workplace.

* * *

(5) "Student apprentice coordinator" means a licensed professional educator whom the ~~State Board of Education~~ Secretary finds qualified to plan, implement and evaluate a student apprenticeship program.

* * *

Sec. 44. 16 V.S.A. § 1602 is amended to read:

§ 1602. SCHOOL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

* * *

(b) Each school board that runs a student apprenticeship program shall:

* * *

(2) Ensure preparation of individuals employed by business to be worksite mentors according to guidelines established by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary. Each participating business shall support the preparation of the worksite mentor as a condition to participating in the student apprenticeship program.

* * *

Sec. 45. 16 V.S.A. § 1603 is amended to read:

§ 1603. ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

(a) An eligible student may apply to enter the student apprenticeship program upon successful completion of grade 10 or its equivalent and meeting entrance requirements established by the ~~State Board of Education~~ Secretary.

* * *

(f) A student apprentice who successfully completes a student apprenticeship program shall receive an industry competency certificate issued by the ~~State Board of Education~~ Secretary. In order to earn an industry competency certificate, a student apprentice shall demonstrate mastery of industry competency standards and shall complete academic requirements for graduation.

* * *

Sec. 46. 16 V.S.A. § 1604 is amended to read:

§ 1604. ~~STATE BOARD~~ SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
RESPONSIBILITIES

The ~~State Board of Education~~ Secretary shall:

* * *

(6) Certify those who graduate from a student apprenticeship program as meeting industry competency standards for entrance into the trade or profession the student has studied. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall maintain a record of certificates issued under this subdivision.

Sec. 47. 16 V.S.A. § 1605 is amended to read:

§ 1605. REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Each regional advisory board shall:

(1) Based on standards of operation established by the ~~State Board of Education~~ Secretary, approve or disapprove an application from a school board to establish and operate a student apprenticeship program. The ~~Board~~ Secretary may rescind approval if the program is not meeting the standards.

(2) Based on standards and processes established by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary, determine which applicants shall be accepted into the student apprenticeship programs in its region and determine whether a student should be terminated from a program. Decisions regarding acceptance into a program shall, in part, be based on submission of an acceptable career preparation plan developed by the applicant with the help of a guidance counselor. Decisions regarding termination shall be made with the advice of the student apprenticeship coordinator.

* * *

Sec. 48. 16 V.S.A. § 1931 is amended to read:

§ 1931. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(20) “Teacher” shall mean any licensed teacher, principal, supervisor, superintendent, or any professional licensed by the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators who is regularly employed, or otherwise contracted if following retirement, for the full normal working time for his or her position in a public day school or school district within the State, or in any school or teacher-training institution located within the State, controlled by the State Board of Education or the Agency of Education, and supported wholly by the State; or in certain public independent schools designated for such purposes by the Board in accordance with section 1935 of this title. In all cases of doubt, the Board shall determine whether any person is a teacher as defined in this chapter. It shall not mean a person who is teaching with an emergency license.

* * *

Sec. 49. 16 V.S.A. § 1935 is amended to read:

§ 1935. TEACHERS IN CERTAIN PUBLIC OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

(a) The Board of Trustees may designate certain public or independent schools, which are located within the State, and supported wholly or in part by the State but ~~which~~ that are not under the control of the State Board of Education or the Agency of Education, as employers of teachers within the meaning of this chapter.

* * *

Sec. 50. 16 V.S.A. § 2903 is amended to read:

§ 2903. PREVENTING EARLY SCHOOL FAILURE; READING INSTRUCTION

(b) Foundation for literacy. ~~The State Board~~ Agency of Education, in collaboration with the Agency of Human Services, higher education, literacy organizations, and others, shall develop a plan for establishing a comprehensive system of services for early education in the first three grades to ensure that all students learn to read by the end of the third grade. The plan shall be updated at least once every five years following its initial submission in 1998.

* * *

Sec. 51. 16 V.S.A. § 2905 is amended to read:

§ 2905. PREKINDERGARTEN-16 COUNCIL

* * *

(h) The Council shall report on its activities to the House and Senate Committees on Education and to the ~~State Board~~ Secretary of Education each year in January. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 52. 16 V.S.A. § 2944 is amended to read:

§ 2944. SPECIAL EDUCATION

(a)-(c) [Repealed.]

(d) The Secretary ~~with the advice of the State Board~~ may make grants for programs and may make grants, subject to conditions the Secretary shall establish, to persons whom he or she finds qualified for either part-time or full-

time study in programs designed to qualify them as special education personnel.

* * *

Sec. 53. 16 V.S.A. § 2945 is amended to read:

§ 2945. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

* * *

(d) The Council shall:

* * *

(2) review periodically the rules, regulations, standards, and guidelines pertaining to special education and recommend to the State Board and the Secretary any changes it finds necessary;

* * *

(4) advise the State Board and the Secretary in the development of any State plan for provision of special education.

Sec. 54. 16 V.S.A. § 2958 is amended to read:

§ 2958. RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT REVIEW TEAM; RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS

* * *

(e) Costs for residential placement shall be reimbursed under subchapter 2 of this chapter only if the residential facility is approved by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary for the purposes of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities.

Sec. 55. 16 V.S.A. § 2973 is amended to read:

§ 2973. INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TUITION RATES

* * *

(c) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary is authorized to enter into interstate compacts with other states to regulate rates for tuition, room, and board for students receiving special education in independent schools.

Sec. 56. 16 V.S.A. § 2974 is amended to read:

§ 2974. SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM; FISCAL REVIEW

Annually, the Secretary shall report to the ~~State Board~~ House and Senate Committees on Education regarding:

* * *

Sec. 57. 16 V.S.A. § 2974 is amended to read:

§ 2974. SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM; FISCAL REVIEW

Annually, the Secretary shall report to the ~~State Board~~ House and Senate Committees on Education regarding:

* * *

Sec. 58. 16 V.S.A. § 2974 is amended to read:

§ 2869. LOAN CANCELLATION; MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND
COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHERS

(a) Loans obtained under this subchapter may be partially or completely cancelled and forgiven for a borrower who is employed for a complete academic school year as a full-time licensed teacher:

(1) in a Vermont elementary or secondary school ~~that is approved by the State Board;~~ and

* * *

Sec. 59. 16 V.S.A. § 3448 is amended to read:

§ 3448. APPROVAL AND FUNDING OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS; RENEWABLE ENERGY

(a) Construction aid.

(1) Preliminary application for construction aid. A district or independent school eligible for assistance under section 3447 of this title, that intends to construct or purchase a new school, or make extensive additions or alterations to its existing school, and desires to avail itself of State school construction aid, shall submit a written preliminary application to the Secretary. A preliminary application shall include information required by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule and shall specify the need for and purpose of the project.

(2) Approval of preliminary application.

(A) When reviewing a preliminary application for approval, the Secretary shall consider:

* * *

(iv) statewide educational initiatives ~~and the strategic plan of the State Board of Education.~~

* * *

(3) Priorities. Following approval of a preliminary application and provided that the district has voted funds or authorized a bond for the total estimated cost of a project, the ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall assign points to the project so that the project can be placed on a priority list based on the number of points received. Once a project receives points, if it does not receive funding in a given year, it shall not lose points in subsequent years and, pursuant to rule of the ~~Board~~ Secretary and provided the scope of the project remains the same, it shall gain points due to length of time on the list and may gain points for any other reason. The points shall be assigned in the following priority:

* * *

(4) Request for legislative appropriation. By On or before January 15 of each year, the ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall present the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions with its annual capital construction funding request. Following receipt of the request, the Committees shall recommend a total school construction appropriation for the next fiscal year to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall not revise the order of the project priorities presented by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary. The funding request to the Committees shall be in the form of separate line items as follows:

(A) a list of projects that have been assigned points in their order of priority, including the voted funds or authorized bond amount for each project;

(B) the cost of emergency projects that the ~~State Board~~ Secretary has approved but not yet reimbursed due to insufficient funds, as well as the estimated cost of those that might be approved in the coming year under subsection (d) of this section;

(C) the cost of projects to extend the life of a building that the ~~State Board~~ Secretary has approved but not yet reimbursed due to insufficient funds, as well as the estimated cost of those that might be approved by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary in the coming fiscal year under subdivision (3)(B) of this subsection (a).

(5) Final approval for construction aid.

(A) Unless approved by the Secretary for good cause in advance of commencement of construction, a school district shall not begin construction before the ~~State Board~~ Secretary approves a final application. A school district may submit a written final application to the ~~State Board~~ Secretary at any time following approval of a preliminary application.

(B) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary may approve a final application for a project provided that:

* * *

(iv) the district has provided for construction financing of the project during a period prescribed by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary;

* * *

(C) The board of trustees of an independent school may submit a written final application to the ~~State Board~~ Secretary for a project for which a preliminary application has been approved by the Secretary, provided that each municipality represented on the board of trustees has voted funds or authorized a bond issue for 100 percent of the municipality's estimated share of the project in an amount determined by the Secretary under this section.

(D) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary may provide that a grant for a high school project is conditioned upon the agreement of the recipient to provide high school instruction for any high school pupil living in an area prescribed by the ~~Board~~ Secretary who may elect to attend the school.

* * *

(8) Eligible construction cost.

(A) Space and cost parameters. Only those portions of a project shall be eligible for construction aid that meet space and cost parameters adopted by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary. The parameters shall define maximum square footage costs, maximum gross square footage per student by grade range and school size, and minimum and maximum square footage allowances per student for programs and services.

* * *

(9) Payment. Upon satisfactory evidence that a project approved under subdivision (5) of this subsection (a) is under construction or has been constructed, and upon appropriation of funds sufficient to fund the State aid due under this section, the ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall certify an award for the project to the Commissioner of Finance and Management who shall issue a warrant for the payment of one-half of the award, or the entire award if the project is complete. After a project has been completed according to approved plans and specifications and the cost thereof has been audited by the Agency, the Secretary shall certify the remainder of the award due for the project to the Commissioner of Finance and Management who shall issue a warrant for the payment. Provided, however, if a project that is included on a prioritized list, for which list the General Assembly has appropriated funds in any year, is not

eligible to be certified for one-half of the award or for the entire award, and if another project of lesser priority is eligible for certification, nothing in this section shall preclude the State Board Secretary from certifying an award for the lesser priority project prior to the higher priority project.

* * *

(e) Rules. The State Board Secretary shall adopt rules pertaining to school construction and capital outlay.

* * *

Sec. 60. 16 V.S.A. § 3448a is amended to read:

§ 3448a. APPEAL

Any municipal corporation or independent school as defined in section 3447 of this title aggrieved by an order, allocation or award of the State Board Secretary of Education may, within 30 days, appeal ~~therefrom~~ to the State Board, and may appeal from the decision of the State Board, within 30 days of that decision, to the Superior Court in the county in which the project is located.

Sec. 61. 16 V.S.A. § 3448f is amended to read:

§ 3448f. ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING;
AUTHORIZATION; STATE AID

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Cost-saving measure” means any facility improvement, repair, or alteration or any equipment, fixture, or furnishing to be constructed or installed in any facility that is designed to reduce energy consumption and operating costs or to increase the operating efficiency of facilities for their appointed functions, that is cost effective, and that is further defined by State Board Agency rule.

* * *

(f) State funding for energy conservation measures.

* * *

(3) Priorities. Following approval of a district’s application, the State Board Secretary shall assign points, established by Board Agency rule, to the project so that the project can be placed on a priority list distinct from but similar to the list established under section 3448 of this title, based on the number of points received. Once a project receives points, if it does not receive funding in a given year, it shall not lose points in subsequent years and,

pursuant to ~~Board~~ Agency rule and provided the scope of the project remains the same, it shall gain points due to the length of time on the list and may gain points for any other reason. Prioritized projects under this section shall be included in the ~~State Board's~~ Secretary's request for legislative appropriation as a separate and distinct line item under section 3448 of this title. Any legislative appropriation made to fund the line item for performance contracts shall not exceed 20 percent of the appropriation made in the same year to fund State aid for school construction under section 3448.

* * *

(5) Eligible costs. A project or portions of a project under this section shall be eligible for aid pursuant to criteria established by ~~State Board~~ Agency rule.

(6) Payment. Upon completion of the construction or installation of the cost-saving measure, determination by the Department of Buildings and General Services that implementation of the cost-saving measures is expected to result in energy and operational cost-savings, and legislative appropriation sufficient to fund the State aid due under this section, the ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall certify an award for the project to the Commissioner of Finance and Management who shall issue a warrant for the payment of the award. A district awarded State aid under this section shall use the State aid solely for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the obligation due under the performance contract at the time the award is received.

* * *

Sec. 62. 16 V.S.A. § 3454 is amended to read:

§ 3454. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

No State school construction aid shall be available under this title for any proposed project or construction if the Secretary finds the need for the project or construction has arisen in whole or in part from significant deferred maintenance. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary, by rule, shall define "significant deferred maintenance."

Sec. 63. 16 V.S.A. § 3581 is amended to read:

§ 3581. ACCEPTANCE

The ~~State Board~~ Secretary may accept, use, disburse, and account for federal funds made available for the purposes of acquisition, construction, reconstruction, remodeling, or repair of public school buildings.

Sec. 64. 16 V.S.A. § 3582 is amended to read:

§ 3582. FORMULATION OF PLANS

The ~~State Board~~ Secretary may formulate any State plan, including preparation of surveys and estimates of school building needs, required by federal legislation.

Sec. 65. 16 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Average daily membership” of a school district, or if needed in order to calculate the appropriate homestead tax rate, of the municipality as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401(9), in any year means:

(A) The full-time equivalent enrollment of students, as defined by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule, who are legal residents of the district or municipality attending a school owned and operated by the district, attending a public school outside the district under section 822a of this title, or for whom the district pays tuition to one or more approved independent schools or public schools outside the district during the annual census period. The census period consists of the 11th day through the 30th day of the school year in which school is actually in session.

(B) The full-time equivalent enrollment in the year before the last census period, of any State-placed students as defined in subdivision 11(a)(28) of this title. A school district that provides for the education of its students by paying tuition to an approved independent school or public school outside the district shall not count a State-placed student for whom it is paying tuition for purposes of determining average daily membership. A school district that is receiving the full amount, as defined by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule, of the student’s education costs under subsection 2950(a) of this title, shall not count the student for purposes of determining average daily membership. A State-placed student who is counted in average daily membership shall be counted as a student for the purposes of determining weighted student count.

* * *

(6) “Education spending” means the amount of the school district budget, any assessment for a joint contract school, career technical center payments made on behalf of the district under subsection 1561(b) of this title, and any amount added to pay a deficit pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1523(b) that is paid for by the school district, but excluding any portion of the school budget paid for from any other sources such as endowments, parental fundraising,

federal funds, nongovernmental grants, or other State funds such as special education funds paid under chapter 101 of this title.

(A) [Repealed.]

(B) For purposes of calculating excess spending pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12), “education spending” shall not include:

* * *

(iii) Spending that is approved school capital construction spending or deposited into a reserve fund under 24 V.S.A. § 2804 to pay future approved school capital construction costs, including that portion of tuition paid to an independent school designated as the public high school of the school district pursuant to section 827 of this title for capital construction costs by the independent school that has received approval from the ~~State Board of Education~~ Secretary, using the processes for preliminary approval of public school construction costs pursuant to subdivision 3448(a)(2) of this title.

* * *

Sec. 66. 16 V.S.A. § 4015 is amended to read:

§ 4015. SMALL SCHOOL SUPPORT

(a) In this section:

(1) “Eligible school district” means a school district that:

(A) operates at least one school with an average grade size of 20 or fewer; and

(B) has been determined by the ~~State Board~~ Secretary, on an annual basis, to be eligible due to either:

* * *

Sec. 67. 16 V.S.A. § 4016 is amended to read:

§ 4016. REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURES

* * *

(b) ~~In~~ As used in this section, “allowable transportation expenditures” means the costs of transporting students to and from school for regular classroom services and shall not include expenditures for transporting students participating in curricular activities that take place off the school grounds or for transporting students participating in cocurricular activities. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall further define allowable transportation expenditures by rule.

(c) A district or supervisory union may apply and the Secretary may pay for extraordinary transportation expenditures incurred due to geographic or other conditions such as the need to transport students out of the school district to attend another school because the district does not maintain a public school. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall define extraordinary transportation expenditures by rule. The total amount of base year extraordinary transportation grant expenditures shall be \$250,000.00 for fiscal year 1997, increased each year thereafter by the annual price index for state and local government purchases of goods and services. Extraordinary transportation expenditures shall not be paid out of the funds appropriated under subsection (b) of this section for other transportation expenditures. Grants paid under this section shall be paid from the Education Fund and shall be added to adjusted education payment receipts paid under section 4011 of this title.

Sec. 68. 16 V.S.A. § 4030 is amended to read:

§ 4030. DATA SUBMISSION; CORRECTIONS

(a) Upon discovering an error or change in data submitted to the Secretary for the purpose of determining payments to or from the Education Fund, a school district shall report the error or change to the Secretary as soon as possible. Any budget deficit or surplus due to the error or change shall be carried forward to the following year.

* * *

(e) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary may adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 69. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except for Sec. 57 (16 V.S.A. § 2974) which shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to reforming the State Board of Education.

(Committee vote: 6-0-0)

S. 190.

An act relating to the Standard Offer Program.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator MacDonald for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8009 is amended to read:

§ 8009. BASELOAD RENEWABLE POWER PORTFOLIO
REQUIREMENT

(a) ~~In~~ As used in this section:

(1) “Baseload renewable power” means a plant that generates electricity from renewable energy; that, during normal operation, is capable of taking all or part of the minimum load on an electric transmission or distribution system; and that produces electricity essentially continuously at a constant rate.

(2) “Baseload renewable power portfolio requirement” means an annual average of 175,000 MWh of baseload renewable power from an in-state woody biomass plant that was commissioned prior to September 30, 2009, has a nominal capacity of 20.5 MW, and was in service as of January 1, 2011.

(3) “Biomass” means organic nonfossil material of biological origin constituting a source of renewable energy within the meaning of subdivision 8002~~(17)~~(21) of this title.

(4) [Repealed.]

(b) Notwithstanding subsection 8004(a) and subdivision 8005~~(d)~~(c)(1) of this title, commencing November 1, 2012, the electricity supplied by each Vermont retail electricity provider to its customers shall include the provider’s pro rata share of the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement, which shall be based on the total Vermont retail kWh sales of all such providers for the previous calendar year. The obligation created by this subsection shall cease on November 1, ~~2022~~ 2032.

(c) A plant used to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement shall be a qualifying small power production facility under 16 U.S.C. § 796(17)(C) and 18 C.F.R. part 292.

(d) ~~The~~ On or before January 1, 2022, the Commission shall determine, for the period beginning on November 1, 2022, and ending on November 1, 2032, the price to be paid to a plant used to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement. The Commission shall not be required to make this determination as a contested case under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25. The price shall be the avoided cost of the Vermont composite electric utility system. In this subsection, the term “avoided cost” means the incremental cost to retail electricity providers of electric energy or capacity, or both, which, but for the purchase from the plant proposed to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement, such providers would obtain from a source using the same generation technology as the proposed plant. In this subsection, the term

“avoided cost” also includes the Commission’s consideration of each of the following:

(1) The relevant cost data of the Vermont composite electric utility system.

(2) The terms of the potential contract, including the duration of the obligation.

(3) The availability, during the system’s daily and seasonal peak periods, of capacity or energy from a proposed plant.

(4) The relationship of the availability of energy or capacity from the proposed plant to the ability of the Vermont composite electric utility system or a portion thereof to avoid costs.

(5) The costs or savings resulting from variations in line losses from those that would have existed in the absence of purchases from the proposed plant.

(6) The supply and cost characteristics of the proposed plant, including the costs of operation and maintenance of an existing plant during the term of a proposed contract.

(7) Mechanisms for encouraging dispatch of the proposed plant relative to the ISO New England wholesale energy price and value of regional renewable energy credits, while also respecting the physical operating parameters and fixed costs of the proposed plant.

(8) The fuel supply for the proposed plant is obtained from ecologically sound and sustainable sources. In the case of biomass, this shall include an assessment of whether fuel supplies use ecologically sound harvesting practices and whether they promote a diverse and sustainable forest economy in the region.

(9) The appropriate assignment of risks associated with the ISO New England Forward Capacity Market Pay-for-Performance Project.

(10) Any potential opportunities associated with having the proposed plant withdraw from the ISO New England Forward Capacity Market, while respecting the economic parameters of the proposed plant.

* * *

(i) The State and its instrumentalities shall not be liable to a plant owner or retail electricity provider with respect to any matter related to the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement or a plant used to satisfy such requirement, including costs associated with a contract related to such a plant

or any damages arising from the breach of such a contract, the flow of power between a plant and the electric grid, or the interconnection of a plant to that grid. For the purpose of this section, the Commission and the Standard Offer Facilitator constitute instrumentalities of the State.

(j) The Commission shall authorize any agency participating in a proceeding under this section or in an order issued under this section to assess its costs against a proposed plant consistent with section 21 of this title.

(k) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall investigate the feasibility of utilizing the excess thermal energy generated by a plant used to satisfy the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement imposed under this section. Such investigation shall be done in consultation with the plant's owner, the Northeast Vermont Development Association, and other interested parties and shall consider the economic feasibility of utilizing the excess thermal energy generated by a plant and the economic development options available to the State to assist in the utilization of the excess thermal energy. On or before January 15, 2022 the Agency shall report on its investigation and any recommended legislation to the House Committees on Energy and Technology and on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(l) In considering the assessment of whether fuel supplies use ecologically sound harvesting practices and whether they promote a diverse and sustainable forest economy in the region, the Agency of Natural Resources shall provide input to the Commission regarding any recommended changes to the biomass harvesting practices associated with fuel supply, and the Commission shall incorporate such recommendations in the Order.

Sec. 2. TRANSITION PROVISION

All decisions and orders of the former Public Service Board and the Public Utility Commission in the matter *Investigation into the Establishment of a Standard-Offer Price for Baseload Renewable Power under the Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development ("SPEED") Program*, Docket No. 7782, shall remain in full force and effect through October 31, 2022.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 17, 2020

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 265.

An act relating to the use of food residuals for farming.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Pollina for the Committee on Agriculture.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 6001 is amended to read:

§ 6001. DEFINITIONS

In this chapter:

* * *

(3)(A) “Development” means each of the following:

* * *

(D) The word “development” does not include:

(i) The construction of improvements for farming, logging, or forestry purposes below the elevation of 2,500 feet.

* * *

(vii) The construction of improvements below the elevation of 2,500 feet for the onsite storage, preparation, and sale of compost, provided that one of the following applies:

* * *

(III) The compost is principally used on the farm where it was produced.

* * *

(22) “Farming” means:

(A) the cultivation or other use of land for growing food, fiber, Christmas trees, maple sap, or horticultural and orchard crops; or

(B) the raising, feeding, or management of livestock, poultry, fish, or bees; or

(C) the operation of greenhouses; or

(D) the production of maple syrup; or

(E) the on-site storage, preparation, and sale of agricultural products principally produced on the farm; or

(F) the on-site storage, preparation, production, and sale of fuel or power from agricultural products or wastes principally produced on the farm; or

(G) the raising, feeding, or management of four or more equines owned or boarded by the farmer, including training, showing, and providing instruction and lessons in riding, training, and the management of equines; or

(H) the importation of up to 2,000 cubic yards per year or less of food residuals or food processing residuals onto a farm for the production of compost, provided that:

(i) the compost is principally used on the farm where it is produced; or

(ii) the compost is produced on a small farm that raises or manages poultry.

* * *

(38) “Farm” means, for the purposes of subdivision (22)(H) of this section, a parcel or parcels of land owned, leased, or managed by a person and devoted primarily to farming that meets the threshold criteria as established under the Required Agricultural Practices.

(39) “Food processing residuals” means the remaining organic material from a food processing plant and may include whey and other dairy, cheese making, and ice cream residuals or residuals from any food manufacturing process excluding livestock or poultry slaughtering and rendering operations. “Food processing residuals” does not include food residuals from markets, groceries, or restaurants.

(40) “Food residuals” has the same meaning as in section 6602 of this title.

(41) “Principally used” means, for the purposes of subdivision (3)(D)(vii)(III) or (22)(H) of this section, that more than 50 percent, either by volume or weight, of the compost produced on the farm is physically and permanently incorporated into the native soils on the farm as a soil enhancement and is not removed or sold at any time thereafter.

(42) “Small farm” has the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 4871.

Sec. 2. Section 2 of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets,
Vermont Required Agricultural Practices Rule for the Agricultural
Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program is amended to read:

Section 2. Definitions

* * *

2.16 Farming means:

(a) the cultivation or other use of land for growing food, fiber, Christmas trees, maple sap, or horticultural, viticultural, and orchard crops; or

(b) the raising, feeding, or management of livestock, poultry, fish, or bees;
or

(c) the operation of greenhouses; or

(d) the production of maple syrup; or

(e) the on-site storage, preparation, and sale of agricultural products principally produced on the farm; or

(f) the on-site storage, preparation, production, and sale of fuel or power from agricultural products or wastes principally produced on the farm; or

(g) the raising, feeding, or management of four or more equines owned or boarded by the farmer, including training, showing, and providing instruction and lessons in riding, training, and the management of equines; or

(h) the importation of up to 2,000 cubic yards per year or less of food residuals or food processing residuals onto a farm for the production of compost, provided that:

(i) the compost is principally used on the farm where it is produced; or

(ii) the compost is produced on a small farm that raises or manages poultry.

* * *

2.44 “Food residual” means source separated and uncontaminated material that is derived from processing or discarding of food and that is recyclable, in a manner consistent with 10 V.S.A. § 6605k. Food residual may include preconsumer and postconsumer food scraps. “Food residual” does not mean meat and meat-related products when the food residuals are composted by a resident on site.

2.45 “Principally used” means that more than 50 percent, either by volume or weight, of the compost produced on the farm is physically and permanently

incorporated into the native soils on the farm as a soil enhancement and is not removed or sold at any time thereafter.

Sec. 3. 6 V.S.A. chapter 218 is added to read:

CHAPTER 218. AGRICULTURAL RESIDUALS MANAGEMENT

§ 5131. PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a program for the management of residual wastes generated, imported to, or managed on a farm for farming in Vermont.

§ 5132. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Agency” means the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

(2) “Compost” means a stable humus-like material produced by the controlled biological decomposition of organic matter through active management, but shall not mean sewage, septage, or materials derived from sewage or septage.

(3) “Farm” means a parcel or parcels of land owned, leased, or managed by a person and devoted primarily to farming that meets the threshold criteria for regulation under the Required Agricultural Practices.

(4) “Farming” has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(22).

(5) “Food processing residuals” means the remaining organic material from a food processing plant and may include whey and other dairy, cheese making, and ice cream residuals or residuals from any food manufacturing process excluding livestock or poultry slaughtering and rendering operations. “Food processing residuals” do not include food residuals from markets, groceries, or restaurants.

(6) “Food residuals” means source separated and uncontaminated material that is derived from processing or discarding of food and that is recyclable or compostable. “Food residuals” may include preconsumer and postconsumer food scraps. “Food residuals” include meat and meat-related products when the disposition of the products is managed on a farm.

(7) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

(8) “Source separation” has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6602.

§ 5133. FOOD RESIDUALS; RULEMAKING

(a) The Secretary shall regulate the importation of food residuals or food processing residuals onto a farm.

(b)(1) The Secretary shall adopt by rule requirements for the management of food residuals and food processing residuals on a farm. The rules may include requirements regarding:

(A) the proper composting of food residuals or food processing residuals;

(B) destruction of pathogens in food residuals, food processing residuals, or compost;

(C) prevention of public health threat from food residuals, food processing residuals, or compost;

(D) protection of natural resources or the environment; and

(E) prevention of objectionable odors, noise, vectors, or other nuisance conditions.

(2) The Secretary may adopt the rules required by this section as part of the Required Agricultural Practices or as independent rules under this chapter.

(c) A farm producing compost under 10 V.S.A. § 6001(22)(H) shall be regulated under this chapter and shall not require a certification or other approval from the Agency of Natural Resources under 10 V.S.A. chapter 159.

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 6605 is amended to read:

§ 6605. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY CERTIFICATION

(a)(1) No person shall construct, substantially alter, or operate any solid waste management facility without first obtaining certification from the Secretary for such facility, site, or activity, except for sludge or septage treatment or storage facilities located within the fenced area of a domestic wastewater treatment plant permitted under chapter 47 of this title. This exemption for sludge or septage treatment or storage facilities shall exist only if:

* * *

(2) Certification shall be valid for a period not to exceed 10 years.

* * *

(n) A farm producing compost under subdivision 6001(22)(H) is exempt from the requirements of this section.

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 6605h is amended to read:

§ 6605h. COMPOSTING REGISTRATION

Notwithstanding sections 6605, 6605f, and 6611 of this title, the Secretary may, by rule, authorize a person engaged in the production or management of compost at a small scale composting facility to register with the Secretary instead of obtaining a facility certification under section 6605 or 6605c of this title. This section shall not apply to a farm producing compost under subdivision 6001(22)(H).

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 6605j is amended to read:

§ 6605j. ACCEPTED COMPOSTING PRACTICES

(a) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall adopt by rule, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, and shall implement and enforce accepted composting practices for the management of composting in the State. These accepted composting practices shall address:

(1) standards for the construction, alteration, or operation of a composting facility;

(2) standards for facility operation, including acceptable quantities of product or inputs, vector management, odors, noise, traffic, litter control, contaminant management, operator training and qualifications, recordkeeping, and reporting;

(3) standards for siting of composting facilities, including siting and operation of compost storage areas, compost bagging areas, and roads and parking areas;

(4) standards for the composting process, including rotation, management of compost piles, compost pile size, and monitoring of compost operations;

(5) standards for management of runoff from compost facilities, including liquids management from the feedstock area, active composting areas, curing area, and compost storage area; the use of swales or stormwater management around or within a compost facility; vegetative buffer requirements; and run-off management from tipping areas;

(6) specified areas of the State unsuitable for the siting of commercial composting that utilizes post-consumer food residuals or animal mortalities, such as designated downtowns, village centers, village growth areas, or areas of existing residential density; and

(7) definitions of “small-scale composting facility,” “medium-scale composting facility,” and “de minimis composting exempt from regulation.”

(b) A person operating a small scale composting facility ~~or operating a composting facility on a farm~~ who follows the accepted composting practices shall not be required to obtain a discharge permit under section 1263 or 1264 of this title, a solid waste facility certification under chapter 159 of this title, or an air emissions permit under chapter 23 of this title unless a permit is required by federal law or the Secretary of Natural Resources determines that a permit is necessary to protect public health or the environment.

~~(c) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets in implementing and enforcing the accepted composting practices. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources may, after opportunity for public review and comment, develop a memorandum of understanding for implementation and enforcement of the accepted composting practices. [Repealed.]~~

(d) The Secretary shall not regulate under this section a farm producing compost under subdivision 6001(22)(H).

Sec. 7. APPLICATION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT RULE

Prior to adoption of rules under 6 V.S.A. § 5133, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall require a person producing compost on a farm under subdivision 6001(22)(H) to comply with Sections 6–1101 through 6–1110 of the Agency of Natural Resources’ Vermont Solid Waste Management Rules. After adoption of rules under 6 V.S.A. § 5133, Sections 6-1101 through 6-1110 of the Agency of Natural Resources’ Vermont Solid Waste Management Rules shall not apply to a person producing compost on a farm under subdivision 6001(22)(H).

Sec. 8. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPORT OF FOOD RESIDUALS ONTO FARM FOR COMPOSTING

On or before January 15, 2022, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall consult and present or submit testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry regarding the import of food residuals onto farms for the purpose of compost production.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 24, 2020

Third Reading

S. 191.

An act relating to tax increment financing districts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 27, 2020

Committee Resolution for Second Reading

J.R.S. 45.

Joint resolution urging Congress to reassess the federal definition of hemp in order to allow the product to contain up to one percent delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

By the Committee on Agriculture. (Senator Star for the Committee.)

Text of Resolution:

Whereas, under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, also known as the 2018 Farm Bill, hemp was removed from the list of controlled substances and production was therefore legalized throughout the United States, and

Whereas, a variety of products can be made from hemp through the use of its fiber, seed, seed oil, or floral extracts. Hemp can be found in products such as paper, fabric, auto parts, animal bedding, body care products, and essential oils, and

Whereas, cannabidiol (CBD) is a chemical compound of *Cannabis sativa*, bearing little to no psychoactive effects, and is being evaluated for its role as a food additive or health supplement, and

Whereas, economic forecasts predict that the total collective market in CBD sales in the United States will be between \$15 billion to \$20 billion annually by 2025, and

Whereas, in 2019, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets approved 983 permits to grow or process hemp on 8,880 acres in Vermont, and

Whereas, hemp was grown in every county of the State in 2019, and

Whereas, cultivators and processors of hemp in Vermont have invested millions of dollars to purchase the equipment and resources necessary to successfully produce hemp and hemp products, and

Whereas, the development and growth of the hemp industry in Vermont is critical to improving the health and vitality of the rural economy of the State; and

Whereas, the federal government defines hemp in the 2018 Farm Bill as “the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol level of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis,” and

Whereas, hemp farmers and processors encourage Congress to reassess the definition of hemp as referenced in the 2018 Farm Bill and increase the farm production values to one percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in order to allow hemp farmers to increase yield potential per acre and profitability for all hemp grown in the State, and

Whereas, increasing yield potential per acre equates to increased profit potential for Vermont’s farm families and hemp processors, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to revise the current definition of hemp found in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, increasing the THC threshold from 0.3 percent to 1.0 percent, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the U.S. Senate, and the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 218.

An act relating to the Department of Mental Health’s Ten-Year Plan.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Westman for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION COUNCIL; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Mental Health Integration Council for the purpose of helping to ensure that all sectors of the health care system actively participate in the State’s principles for mental health integration established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7251(4) and (8) and as envisioned in the Department of Mental Health’s 2020 report “Vision 2030: A 10-Year Plan for an Integrated and Holistic System of Care.”

(b) Membership.

(1) The Council shall be composed of the following members:

(A) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

(B) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

(C) the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access or designee;

(D) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

(E) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

(F) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee;

(G) the executive director of the Green Mountain Care Board or designee;

(H) the Secretary of Education or designee;

(I) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Medical Society;

(J) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association for Hospitals and Health Systems;

(K) a representative, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;

(L) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery;

(M) a representative, appointed by Bi-State Primary Care;

(N) a representative, appointed by the University of Vermont Medical School;

(O) the chief executive officer of OneCare Vermont or designee;

(P) the Health Care Advocate established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9602;

(Q) the Mental Health Care Ombudsman established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7259;

(R) a representative, appointed by the insurance plan with the largest number of covered lives in Vermont;

(S) two persons who have received mental health services in Vermont, appointed by Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, including one person who has delivered peer services;

(T) one family member of a person who has received mental health services, appointed by the Vermont chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness; and

(U) one family member of a child who has received mental health services, appointed by the Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

(2) The Council may create subcommittees comprising the Council's members for the purpose of carrying out the Council's charge.

(c) Powers and duties. The Council shall address the integration of mental health in the health care system including:

(1) identifying obstacles to the full integration of mental health into a holistic health care system and identifying means of overcoming those barriers;

(2) helping to ensure the implementation of existing law to establish full integration within each member of the Council's area of expertise;

(3) establishing commitments from non-state entities to adopt practices and implementation tools that further integration;

(4) proposing legislation where current statute is either inadequate to achieve full integration or where it creates barriers to achieving the principles of integration; and

(5) fulfilling any other duties the Council deems necessary to achieve its objectives.

(d) Assistance. The Council shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of Department of Mental Health.

(e) Report.

(1) On or before December 15, 2021, the Commissioners of Mental Health and of Health shall report on the Council's progress to the Joint Health Reform Oversight Committee.

(2) On or before January 15, 2023, the Council shall submit a final written report to the House Committee on Health Care and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action, including a recommendation as to whether the term of the Council should be extended.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Mental Health shall call the first meeting of the Council.

(2) The Commissioner of Mental Health shall serve as chair. The Commissioner of Health shall serve as vice chair.

(3) The Council shall meet bimonthly between July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2023.

(4) The Council shall cease to exist on July 30, 2023.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Council shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Mental Health.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Kitchel for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 1, subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (1) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (1) to read as follows:

(1) The Council shall be composed of the following members:

(A) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

(B) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

(C) the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access or designee;

(D) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

(E) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

(F) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee;

(G) the Director of Health Care Reform or designee;

(H) the Executive Director of the Green Mountain Care Board or designee;

(I) the Secretary of Education or designee;

- (J) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Medical Society;
- (K) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association for Hospitals and Health Systems;
- (L) a representative, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;
- (M) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery;
- (N) a representative, appointed by Bi-State Primary Care;
- (O) a representative, appointed by the University of Vermont Medical School;
- (P) the Chief Executive Officer of OneCare Vermont or designee;
- (Q) the Health Care Advocate established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9602;
- (R) the Mental Health Care Ombudsman established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7259;
- (S) a representative, appointed by the insurance plan with the largest number of covered lives in Vermont;
- (T) two persons who have received mental health services in Vermont, appointed by Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, including one person who has delivered peer services;
- (U) one family member of a person who has received mental health services, appointed by the Vermont chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness; and
- (V) one family member of a child who has received mental health services, appointed by the Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

Second: In Sec. 1, subsection (f), subdivision (2), in the second sentence, by striking the word “Health” and inserting in lieu thereof the words Vermont Health Access

And that after passage of the bill the title be amended to read:

An act relating to establishing the Mental Health Integration Council.

(Committee vote: 5-1-1)

S. 241.

An act relating to motor vehicle manufacturers that sell directly to consumers.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Perchlik for the Committee on Transportation.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. STUDY ON DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER MOTOR VEHICLE SALES;
REPORT

(a) The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Financial Regulation, a manufacturer that engages in direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales to Vermont consumers, and the Vermont Vehicle and Automotive Distributors Association, shall conduct a study and, on or before December 15, 2020, file a written report on the findings of its study, sources reviewed, and recommendations regarding the regulation of direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales with the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Transportation and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Transportation.

(b) The report shall, at a minimum, include a review of:

(1) all Vermont consumer protection laws and regulations that currently apply when a consumer purchases a motor vehicle from a dealer registered pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 4, whether those consumer protections currently apply to direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales, and, if not, whether those consumer protections should apply to direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales;

(2) how consumers currently obtain financing in direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales and any proposals that would better protect Vermont consumers who engage in direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales;

(3) how consumers are currently taxed in direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales and whether there are steps the State can take to maximize the collection of taxes owed on direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales where the vehicles are operated in Vermont;

(4) any enforcement issues related to direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales;

(5) what reasons, if any, exist to prohibit manufacturers engaged in direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales from owning, operating, or controlling

a motor vehicle warranty or service facility in the State and a recommendation on whether a sales center should be required if a manufacturer engaged in direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales is permitted to own, operate, or control a motor vehicle warranty or service facility in the State;

(6) laws, rules, and best practices from other jurisdictions and any model legislation related to the regulation of direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales; and

(7) how any proposed amendments to Vermont law regulating direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales will affect dealers registered pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 4; franchisors and franchisees, as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4085; and other persons who are selling motor vehicles to Vermonters.

(c) As used in this section “direct-to-consumer motor vehicle sales” means sales made by:

(1) motor vehicle manufacturers that sell or lease vehicles they manufacture directly to Vermont consumers and not through dealers registered pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 4; or

(2) other persons that sell or lease new or used motor vehicles directly to Vermont consumers and not through Vermont licensed dealers registered pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 4 on websites such as Carvana, Vroom, and TrueCar.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

S. 252.

An act relating to stem cell therapies not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Westman for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 87 is added to read:

CHAPTER 87. STEM CELL PRODUCTS

§ 4501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Health care practitioner” means an individual licensed by the Board of Medical Practice or by a board attached to the Office of Professional Regulation to provide professional health care services in this State.

(2) “Stem cell products” has the same meaning as “human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products” in 21 C.F.R. § 1271.3, as in effect on January 1, 2020, and applies to both homologous and nonhomologous use. The term also includes homologous use of minimally manipulated cell or tissue products, as those terms are defined in 21 C.F.R. § 1271.3, as in effect on January 1, 2020, when used or proposed for use in one or more applications not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

§ 4502. UNAPPROVED STEM CELL PRODUCTS; NOTICE;
DISCLOSURE

(a) Notice.

(1) A health care practitioner who administers one or more stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall provide each patient with the following written notice prior to administering any such product to the patient for the first time:

“THIS NOTICE MUST BE PROVIDED TO YOU UNDER VERMONT LAW. This health care practitioner administers one or more stem cell products that have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. You are encouraged to consult with your primary care provider prior to having an unapproved stem cell product administered to you.”

(2)(A) The written notice required by subdivision (1) of this subsection shall:

(i) be at least 8.5 by 11 inches and printed in not less than 40-point type; and

(ii) include information on methods for filing a complaint with the applicable licensing authority and for making a consumer inquiry.

(B) The health care practitioner shall also prominently display the written notice required by subdivision (1) of this subsection, along with the information required to be included by subdivision (A)(ii) of this subdivision (2), at the entrance and in an area visible to patients in the health care practitioner’s office.

(b) Disclosure.

(1) A health care practitioner who administers stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall provide a

disclosure form to a patient for the patient's signature prior to each administration of an unapproved stem cell product.

(2) The disclosure form shall state, in language that the patient could reasonably be expected to understand, the stem cell product's U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval status.

(3) The health care practitioner shall retain in the patient's medical record a copy of each disclosure form signed and dated by the patient.

(c) Advertisements. A health care practitioner shall include the notice set forth in subdivision (a)(1) of this section in any advertisements relating to the use of stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In print advertisements, the notice shall be clearly legible and in a font size not smaller than the largest font size used in the advertisement. For all other forms of advertisements, the notice shall either be clearly legible in a font size not smaller than the largest font size used in the advertisement or clearly spoken.

(d) Nonapplicability. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the following:

(1) a health care practitioner who has obtained approval or clearance for an investigational new drug or device from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the use of stem cell products; or

(2) a health care practitioner who administers a stem cell product pursuant to an employment or other contract to administer stem cell products on behalf of or under the auspices of an institution certified by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy, the National Institutes of Health Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network, or AABB, formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks.

(e) Violations. A violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct under 3 V.S.A. § 129a and 26 V.S.A. § 1354.

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 129a is amended to read:

§ 129a. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) In addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action. Any one of the following items or any combination of items, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

* * *

(27) For a health care practitioner, failing to comply with one or more of the notice, disclosure, or advertising requirements in 18 V.S.A. § 4502 for administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

* * *

Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 1354 is amended to read:

§ 1354. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) The Board shall find that any one of the following, or any combination of the following, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, constitutes unprofessional conduct:

* * *

(39) use of the services of a physician assistant by a physician in a manner that is inconsistent with the provisions of chapter 31 of this title; or

(40) use of conversion therapy as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 8351 on a client younger than 18 years of age; or

(41) failure to comply with one or more of the notice, disclosure, or advertising requirements in 18 V.S.A. § 4502 for administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

* * *

Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; ADVANCE DIRECTIVES;
RULEMAKING

The Department of Health shall amend its rules on advance directives to further clarify the scope of experimental treatments to which an agent may and may not provide consent on behalf of a principal. The Department's amended rules shall take effect not later than January 1, 2021.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 254.

An act relating to union organizing.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Bargaining Unit Contact Information * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

§ 941. UNIT DETERMINATION, CERTIFICATION, AND REPRESENTATION

* * *

(c) A petition may be filed with the Board, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Board:

(1) By an employee or group of employees, or any individual or employee organization purporting to act in their behalf, alleging by filing a petition or petitions bearing signatures of not less than 30 percent of the employees, that they wish to form a bargaining unit and be represented for collective bargaining, or that the individual or employee organization currently certified as bargaining agent is no longer supported by at least 51 percent of the employees in the bargaining unit, or that they are now included in an approved bargaining unit and wish to form a separate bargaining unit under Board criteria for purposes of collective bargaining.

(2)(A)(i) An employee or group of employees, or any individual or employee organization purporting to act in their behalf, that is seeking to determine interest in the formation of a bargaining unit or representation for collective bargaining may petition the employer and the Board for a list of the employees in the proposed bargaining unit.

(ii) An employee or group of employees, or any person purporting to act on their behalf, that is seeking to demonstrate that the individual or employee organization currently certified as bargaining agent is no longer supported by at least 51 percent of the employees in the bargaining unit shall not be entitled to obtain a list of the employees in the proposed bargaining unit pursuant to this subdivision (c)(2).

(B) Within two business days after receiving the petition, the employer shall file with the Board and the employee or group of employees, or

the individual or employee organization purporting to act in their behalf, a list of the names and job titles of the employees in the proposed bargaining unit. To the extent possible, the list of employees shall be in alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

(d)(1) The Board, a Board member thereof, or a person or persons designated by the Board shall investigate the petition, and do one of the following:

(A) Determine that a sufficient showing of interest has been made by the petition.

(1)(B)(i) if If it finds reasonable cause to believe that a question of unit determination or representation exists, ~~an appropriate hearing shall be scheduled before the Board upon due notice~~ the Board shall schedule a hearing to be held before the Board not more than eight days after the petition was filed with the Board unless:

(I) the parties named in the petition mutually agree to extend the time for the hearing; or

(II) the Board determines that the time for the hearing must be extended due to an insufficient number of Board members being available to hold a hearing or the Executive Director of the Board is unavailable due to leave.

(ii)(I) Once scheduled, the date of the hearing shall not be subject to change except for good cause as determined by the Board. ~~Upon request, the results of the investigation shall be made available by the Board to the petitioners and all intervenors, if any, including the duly certified bargaining representative prior to giving notice of hearing. Written notice of the hearing shall be mailed by certified mail to the parties named in the petition not less than seven calendar days before the hearing.~~

(II) The time for a hearing shall not be extended pursuant to subdivisions (d)(1)(B)(i)(I) or (II) of this section for more than an additional 30 days.

(iii) Hearing procedure and notification of the results of ~~same~~ the hearing shall be in accordance with rules ~~prescribed~~ adopted by the Board, or except that the parties shall not be permitted to submit briefs to the Board after the conclusion of the hearing unless the parties mutually agree to do so and the Board consents.

(iv) The Board shall issue its decision not more than two business days after the hearing or 10 days after the petition was submitted, whichever is later.

(2)(C) dismiss the petition, based upon the If the Board finds an absence of substantive evidence, it shall dismiss the petition.

(2) Upon request, the results of the investigation shall be made available by the Board to the petitioners and all intervenors, if any, including the duly certified bargaining representative as soon as practicable after the investigation is completed.

(e)(1)(A) Whenever, as a result of a petition and an appropriate or hearing, the Board finds substantial interest among employees in forming a bargaining unit or being represent for purposes of collective bargaining, a secret ballot election shall be conducted by the Board to be taken in such manner as to show not more than 21 days after the petition is filed with the Board.

(B) The time to conduct the election may be extended by:

(i) mutual agreement of the parties; or

(ii) the Board due to a lack of staff available to conduct the election or other circumstances that make it impracticable for the Board to conduct the election within 21 days after the petition is filed.

(C) The Board shall not hold a hearing to resolve any disputes related to the membership of the bargaining unit until after the election unless the parties mutually agree to extend the time for the election for the purpose of resolving those issues.

(2) The election shall be conducted so that it shows separately the wishes of the employees in the voting group involved as to the determination of the collective bargaining unit, including the right not to be organized. In order for a The collective bargaining unit to or collective bargaining representative shall be recognized and certified by the Board, there must be upon a majority vote east by those of the employees voting.

(3)(A) Unless the employer and labor organization agree to a longer period, the employer shall file with the Board and the labor organization that will be named on the ballot a list of the employees in the bargaining unit within two business days after:

(i) the Board determines that substantial interest exists and a secret ballot election shall be conducted; or

(ii) the parties stipulate to the composition of the bargaining unit.

(B) The list shall include, as appropriate, each employee's name, work location, shift, job classification, and contact information. As used in this subdivision (2), "contact information" includes an employee's home

address, personal e-mail address, and home and personal cellular telephone numbers.

(C) To the extent possible, the list of employees shall be in alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

(D) The list shall be kept confidential by the employer and the labor organization and shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public Records Act.

(E) Failure to file the list within the time required pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall be grounds for the Board to set aside the results of the election if an objection is filed within the time required pursuant to the Board's rules.

* * *

(g)(1) In determining the representation of State employees in a collective bargaining unit, the Board shall conduct a secret ballot of the employees not more than 21 days after the petition is filed with the Board, unless the time to conduct the election is extended pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(B) of this section, and certify the results to the interested parties and to the State employer. The original ballot shall be so prepared as to permit a vote against representation by anyone named on the ballot. No representative will be certified with less than a majority of the votes cast.

* * *

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1992 is amended to read:

§ 1992. REFERENDUM PROCEDURE FOR REPRESENTATION

(a)(1) An organization purporting to represent a majority of all of the teachers or administrators employed by the school board may be recognized by the school board without the necessity of a referendum upon the submission of a petition bearing the valid signatures of a majority of the teachers or administrators employed by that school board. Within 15 days after receiving the petition the school board shall notify the teachers or administrators of the school district in writing of its intention to either require or waive a secret ballot referendum. If the school board gives notice of its intention to waive a referendum and recognize an organization, 10 percent of the teachers or administrators employed by the school board may submit a petition within 15 days thereafter, objecting to the granting ~~or~~ of recognition without a referendum, in which event a secret ballot referendum shall be held in the district for the purpose of choosing an exclusive representative ~~according to the guidelines for referendum contained in this legislation~~ as provided pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(2)(A)(i) An organization seeking to represent the teachers or administrators employed by a school board may petition the school board and the Vermont Labor Relations Board for a list of the teachers or administrators in the proposed bargaining unit.

(ii) An organization or group of teachers or administrators, or any person purporting to act on their behalf, that is seeking to demonstrate that the teachers' or administrators' organization that is currently the exclusive representative of the teachers or administrators is no longer supported by a majority of the teachers or administrators employed by that school board shall not be entitled to obtain a list of the employees in the proposed bargaining unit pursuant to this subdivision (a)(2).

(B) Within two business days after receiving the petition, the school board shall file with the Vermont Labor Relations Board and the organization a list of the names and job titles of the teachers or administrators in the proposed bargaining unit. To the extent possible, the list of employees shall be in alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

* * *

(c)(1)(A) A secret ballot referendum shall be held ~~any time that~~ not more than 21 days after 20 percent of the teachers or administrators employed by the school board present a petition requesting a referendum on the matter of representation, except during a period of prior recognition, as ~~hereinbefore~~ provided pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(B) The parties may mutually agree to extend the time to hold the election set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1).

(C) Any organization interested in representing teachers or administrators in the school district shall have the right to appear on the ballot by submitting a petition supported by ten percent or more of the teachers or administrators in the school district.

(2)(A) Unless the school board and the organization agree to a longer period, within two business days after the petition is presented, the school board shall file with the organization that will be named on the ballot a list of the teachers or administrators in the bargaining unit.

(B) The list shall include, as appropriate, each teacher's or administrator's name, work location, job classification, and contact information. As used in this subdivision (2), "contact information" includes a teacher's or administrator's home address, personal e-mail address, and home and personal cellular telephone numbers.

(C) To the extent possible, the list of teachers or administrators shall be in alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

(D) The list shall be kept confidential by the school board and the organization and shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public Records Act.

(E) Failure to file the list within the time required pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall be an unfair labor practice and grounds for the Vermont Labor Relations Board to set aside the results of the referendum if an unfair labor practice charge is filed not more than 10 business days after the referendum.

* * *

Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. § 1724 is amended to read:

§ 1724. CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

(a)(1) A petition may be filed with the Board, in accordance with regulations prescribed rules adopted by the Board:

~~(1)~~(A) By an employee or group of employees, or any individual or employee organization purporting to act in their behalf, alleging that not less than 30 percent of the employees, wish to form a bargaining unit and be represented for collective bargaining, or assert that the individual or employee organization currently certified as bargaining agent is no longer supported by at least 51 percent of the employees in the bargaining unit, or that not less than 51 percent of the employees now included in an approved bargaining unit wish to form a separate bargaining unit under Board criteria for purposes of collective bargaining.

~~(2)~~(B) By the employer alleging that the presently certified bargaining unit is no longer appropriate under Board criteria.

(2)(A)(i) An employee or group of employees, or any individual or employee organization purporting to act in their behalf, that is seeking to determine interest in the formation of a bargaining unit or representation for collective bargaining may petition the employer and the Board for a list of the employees in the proposed bargaining unit.

(ii) An employee or group of employees, or any person purporting to act on their behalf, that is seeking to demonstrate that the individual or employee organization currently certified as bargaining agent is no longer supported by at least 51 percent of the employees in the bargaining unit shall not be entitled to obtain a list of the employees in the proposed bargaining unit pursuant to this subdivision (a)(2).

(B) Within two business days after receiving the petition, the employer shall file with the Board and the employee or group of employees, or the individual or employee organization purporting to act in their behalf, a list of the names and job titles of the employees in the proposed bargaining unit. To the extent possible, the list of employees shall be in alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

(b)(1) The Board, a Board member thereof, or a person or persons designated by the Board shall investigate the petition, and do one of the following:

(A) Determine that a sufficient showing of interest has been made by the petition.

~~(1)(B)(i) If it finds reasonable cause to believe that a question of unit determination or representation exists, an appropriate hearing shall be scheduled before the Board upon due notice. Written notice of the hearing shall be mailed by certified mail to the parties named in the petition not less than 14 calendar days before the hearing. the Board shall schedule a hearing to be held before the Board not more than eight days after the petition was filed with the Board unless:~~

(I) the parties named in the petition mutually agree to extend the time for the hearing; or

(II) the Board determines that the time for the hearing must be extended due to an insufficient number of Board members being available to hold a hearing or the Executive Director of the Board is unavailable due to leave.

(ii)(I) Once scheduled, the date of the hearing shall not be subject to change except for good cause as determined by the Board.

(II) The time for a hearing shall not be extended pursuant to subdivisions (d)(1)(B)(i)(I) or (II) of this section for more than an additional 30 days.

(iii) Hearing procedure and notification of the results thereof of the hearing shall be in accordance with rules ~~prescribed~~ adopted by the Board or, except that the parties shall not be permitted to submit briefs to the Board after the conclusion of the hearing unless the parties mutually agree to do so and the Board consents.

(iv) The Board shall issue its decision not more than two business days after the hearing or 10 days after the petition was submitted, whichever is later.

(2)(C) dismiss the petition, based upon the If the Board finds an absence of substantive evidence it shall dismiss the petition.

(2) Upon request, the results of the investigation shall be made available by the Board to the petitioners and all intervenors, if any, including the duly certified bargaining representative as soon as practicable after the investigation is completed.

* * *

(e)(1)(A) In determining the representation of municipal employees in a collective bargaining unit, the Board shall conduct a an election by secret ballot of the employees and certify the results to the interested parties and to the employer. The election shall be held not more than 21 days after the petition is filed with the Board.

(B) The time to conduct the election may be extended by:

(i) mutual agreement of the parties; or

(ii) the Board due to a lack of staff available to conduct the election or other circumstances that make it impracticable for the Board to conduct the election within 21 days after the petition is filed.

(C) The Board shall not hold a hearing to resolve any disputes related to the membership of the bargaining unit until after the election unless the parties mutually agree to extend the time for the election for the purpose of resolving those issues.

(2) The original ballot shall be so prepared as to permit a vote against representation by anyone named on the ballot. No representative will be certified with less than a 51 percent affirmative vote of all votes cast. In the ease where If it is asserted that the certified bargaining agent is no longer supported by at least 51 percent of the employees in the bargaining unit and there is no attempt to seek the election of another employee organization or individual as bargaining representative, there shall be at least 51 percent negative vote of all votes cast to decertify the existing bargaining agent.

(A) Unless the employer and the individual or labor organization seeking to represent the bargaining unit agree to a longer period, the employer shall file with the Board and the individual or labor organization that will be named on the ballot a list of the employees in the bargaining unit within two business days after:

(i) the Board determines that substantial interest exists and a secret ballot election shall be conducted; or

(ii) the parties stipulate to the composition of the bargaining unit.

(B) The list shall include, as appropriate, each employee's name, work location, shift, job classification, and contact information. As used in this subdivision (2), "contact information" includes an employee's home address, personal e-mail address, and home and personal cellular telephone numbers.

(C) To the extent possible, the list of employees shall be in alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

(D) The list shall be kept confidential by the employer and the individual or labor organization seeking to represent the bargaining unit and shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public Records Act.

(E) Failure to file the list within the time required pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall be grounds for the Board to set aside the results of the election if an objection is filed within the time required pursuant to the Board's rules.

* * *

* * * Automatic Membership Dues Deduction * * *

Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 903 is amended to read:

§ 903. EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS AND DUTIES; PROHIBITED ACTS

* * *

(e) Employees who are members of the employee organization shall have the right to automatic membership dues deductions. Upon receipt of a signed authorization to commence automatic membership dues deductions from an employee, the employer shall, as soon as practicable and in any event, no later than 30 calendar days after receiving the authorization, commence withholding from the employee's wages the amount of membership dues certified by the employee organization. The employer shall transmit the amount withheld to the employee organization on the same day as the employee is paid. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a member of an employee organization to participate in automatic dues deduction.

Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 1012 is amended to read:

§ 1012. EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS AND DUTIES; PROHIBITED ACTS

* * *

(e) Employees who are members of the employee organization shall have the right to automatic membership dues deductions. Upon receipt of a signed authorization to commence automatic membership dues deductions from an employee, the employer shall, as soon as practicable and in any event, no later

than 30 calendar days after receiving the authorization, commence withholding from the employee's wages the amount of membership dues certified by the employee organization. The employer shall transmit the amount withheld to the employee organization on the same day as the employee is paid. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a member of an employee organization to participate in automatic dues deduction.

Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 1982 is amended to read:

§ 1982. RIGHTS

* * *

(f) A teacher or administrator who is a member of the teachers' or administrators' organization shall have the right to automatic membership dues deductions. Upon receipt of a signed authorization to commence automatic membership dues deductions from a teacher or administrator, the school board shall, as soon as practicable and in any event, no later than 30 calendar days after receiving the authorization, commence withholding from the teacher's or administrator's wages the amount of membership dues certified by the teachers' or administrators' organization. The school board shall transmit the amount withheld to the teachers' or administrators' organization on the same day as the teacher or administrator is paid. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a member of a teachers' or administrators' organization to participate in automatic dues deduction.

Sec. 7. 21 V.S.A. § 1645 is added to read:

§ 1645. AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP DUES DEDUCTION

Independent direct support providers who are members of the labor organization shall have the right to automatic membership dues deductions. Upon receipt of a signed authorization to commence automatic membership dues deductions from an independent direct support provider, the State shall, as soon as practicable and in any event, no later than 30 calendar days after receiving the authorization, commence withholding from the independent direct support provider's wages the amount of membership dues certified by the labor organization. The State shall transmit the amount withheld to the labor organization on the same day as the independent direct support provider is paid. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a member of a labor organization to participate in automatic dues deduction.

Sec. 8. 21 V.S.A. § 1737 is added to read:

§ 1737. AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP DUES DEDUCTION

Employees who are members of the employee organization shall have the right to automatic membership dues deductions. Upon receipt of a signed authorization to commence automatic membership dues deductions from an employee, the employer shall, as soon as practicable and in any event, no later than 30 calendar days after receiving the authorization, commence withholding from the employee's wages the amount of membership dues certified by the employee organization. The employer shall transmit the amount withheld to the employee organization on the same day as the employee is paid. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a member of an employee organization to participate in automatic dues deduction.

Sec. 9. 33 V.S.A. § 3618 is added to read:

§ 3618. AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP DUES DEDUCTION

Early care and education providers who are members of the labor organization shall have the right to automatic membership dues deductions. Upon receipt of a signed authorization to commence automatic membership dues deductions from an early care and education provider, the State shall, as soon as practicable and in any event, no later than 30 calendar days after receiving the authorization, commence withholding from the subsidies paid to the early care and education provider the amount of membership dues certified by the labor organization. The State shall transmit the amount withheld to the labor organization on the same day as the subsidies are paid to the early care and education provider. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a member of a labor organization to participate in automatic dues deduction.

* * * Access to Employees in Bargaining Unit * * *

Sec. 10. 3 V.S.A. § 909 is added to read:

§ 909. ACCESS TO NEW EMPLOYEES IN BARGAINING UNIT

(a) An employer shall provide the employee organization that is the exclusive representative of the employees in a bargaining unit with an opportunity to meet with each newly hired employee in the bargaining unit to present information about the employee organization.

(b)(1) The meeting shall occur during the new employee's orientation or, if the employer does not conduct an orientation for newly hired employees, within 30 calendar days from the date on which the employee was hired.

(2) If the meeting is not held during the new employee's orientation, it shall be held during the new employee's regular work hours and at his or her

regular worksite or a location mutually agreed to by the employer and the employee organization.

(3) The employee organization shall be permitted to meet with the employee for not less than 60 minutes.

(4) The employee shall be paid for attending the meeting at his or her regular rate of pay.

(c)(1) Within 10 days after hiring a new employee in a bargaining unit, the employer shall provide the employee organization with his or her name, job title, worksite location, work telephone number and e-mail address, home address, personal e-mail address, home and personal cellular telephone numbers, and date of hire.

(2) The employee's home address, personal e-mail address, and home and personal cellular telephone numbers shall be kept confidential by the employer and the employee organization and shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public Records Act.

(d) The employer shall provide the employee organization with not less than 10 days' notice of an orientation for newly hired employees in a bargaining unit.

Sec. 11. 3 V.S.A. § 1022 is added to read:

§ 1022. ACCESS TO NEW EMPLOYEES IN BARGAINING UNIT

(a) An employer shall provide the employee organization that is the exclusive representative of the employees in a bargaining unit with an opportunity to meet with each newly hired employee in the bargaining unit to present information about the employee organization.

(b)(1) The meeting shall occur during the new employee's orientation or, if the employer does not conduct an orientation for newly hired employees, within 30 calendar days from the date on which the employee was hired.

(2) If the meeting is not held during the new employee's orientation, it shall be held during the new employee's regular work hours and at his or her regular worksite or a location mutually agreed to by the employer and the employee organization.

(3) The employee organization shall be permitted to meet with the employee for not less than 60 minutes.

(4) The employee shall be paid for attending the meeting at his or her regular rate of pay.

(c)(1) Within 10 days after hiring a new employee in a bargaining unit, the employer shall provide the employee organization with his or her name, job title, worksite location, work telephone number and e-mail address, home address, personal e-mail address, home and personal cellular telephone numbers, and date of hire.

(2) The employee's home address, personal e-mail address, and home and personal cellular telephone numbers shall be kept confidential by the employer and the employee organization and shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public Records Act.

(d) The employer shall provide the employee organization with not less than 10 days' notice of an orientation for newly hired employees in a bargaining unit.

Sec. 12. 16 V.S.A. 1984 is added to read:

§ 1984. ACCESS TO NEW TEACHERS OR ADMINISTRATORS IN BARGAINING UNIT

(a) A school board shall provide a teachers' or administrators' organization that is the exclusive representative of the teachers or administrators in a bargaining unit with an opportunity to meet with each newly hired teacher or administrator in the bargaining unit to present information about the teachers' or administrators' organization.

(b)(1) The meeting shall occur during the new teacher's or administrator's orientation or, if the school board does not conduct an orientation for newly hired teachers or administrators, within 30 calendar days from the date on which the teacher or administrator was hired.

(2) If the meeting is not held during the new teacher's or administrator's orientation, it shall be held during the new teacher's or administrator's regular work hours and at his or her regular worksite or a location mutually agreed to by the school board and the teacher's or administrator's organization.

(3) The employee organization shall be permitted to meet with the employee for not less than 60 minutes.

(4) The teacher or administrator shall be paid for attending the meeting at his or her regular rate of pay.

(c)(1) Within 10 days after hiring a new teacher or administrator, the school board shall provide the teacher's or administrator's organization, as appropriate, with his or her name, job title, worksite location, work telephone number and e-mail address, home address, personal e-mail address, home and personal cellular telephone numbers, and date of hire.

(2) The teacher's or administrator's home address, personal e-mail address, and home and personal cellular telephone numbers shall be kept confidential by the employer and the teacher's or administrator's organization and shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public Records Act.

(d) The school board shall provide the teacher's or administrator's organization with not less than 10 days' notice of an orientation for newly hired teachers or administrators in its bargaining unit.

Sec. 13. 21 V.S.A. § 1738 is added to read:

§ 1738. ACCESS TO NEW EMPLOYEES IN BARGAINING UNIT

(a) An employer shall provide the employee organization that is the exclusive representative of the employees in a bargaining unit with an opportunity to meet with each newly hired employee in the bargaining unit to present information about the employee organization.

(b)(1) The meeting shall occur during the new employee's orientation or, if the employer does not conduct an orientation for newly hired employees, within 30 calendar days from the date on which the employee was hired.

(2) If the meeting is not held during the new employee's orientation, it shall be held during the new employee's regular work hours and at his or her regular worksite or a location mutually agreed to by the employer and the employee organization.

(3) The employee organization shall be permitted to meet with the employee for not less than 60 minutes.

(4) The employee shall be paid for attending the meeting at his or her regular rate of pay.

(c)(1) Within 10 days after hiring a new employee in a bargaining unit, the employer shall provide the employee organization with his or her name, job title, worksite location, work telephone number and e-mail address, home address, personal e-mail address, home and personal cellular telephone numbers, and date of hire.

(2) The employee's home address, personal e-mail address, and home and personal cellular telephone numbers shall be kept confidential by the employer and the employee organization and shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public Records Act.

(d) The employer shall provide the employee organization with not less than 10 days' notice of an orientation for newly hired employees in a bargaining unit.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 285.

An act relating to the State House Artwork and Portrait Project Committee.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Benning for the Committee on Institutions.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 651 is amended to read:

§ 651. LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATE HOUSE

(a) The Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House is created.

* * *

(d) The Committee shall meet at the State House at least one time ~~during the months of July and December when the General Assembly is in session~~ and at least one time when the General Assembly is not in session or at the call of the Chair. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall keep minutes of the meetings and maintain a file thereof.

(e) The Committee shall have the assistance of the Office of Legislative Council.

Sec. 2. 2 V.S.A. § 653 is amended to read:

§ 653. FUNCTIONS

(a)(1) The Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House shall be consulted on all activities relating to the acquisition and care of paintings and historic artifacts and furnishings, and the refurbishing, renovation, preservation, and expansion of the building and its interior.

(2) The Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House shall develop a plan for the acquisition or commission of artwork for the State House collection that represents Vermont's diverse people and history, including diversity of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and disability status.

* * *

Sec. 3. STATE HOUSE ARTWORK AND PORTRAIT PROJECT;
LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATE
HOUSE; REPORT

(a) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly:

(1) to expand the State House artwork and portrait collection to represent the diverse stories of those who have significantly contributed to Vermont's history;

(2) to give special consideration to the State House as a place of employment for a diverse workforce and as an institution of public education for students and members of the general public; and

(3) that the State have a policy of including diverse leadership stories that reflect all of Vermont's history when acquiring or commissioning artistic representation for the State House art collection.

(b) Policy. It is the policy of the General Assembly that the State House art collection shall reflect:

(1) those who have served as leaders and have significantly contributed to the history of Vermont;

(2) those whose service relates to the State or the Abenaki Nation, the civil rights of Vermonters, the legislative process, or the operation of the State House;

(3) stories of significance to a community, a tribe, or historical moments that demonstrate the diverse nature of Vermont's people and history; or

(4) the natural landscapes and environmental features of the State of Vermont.

(c) Plan. Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 653, the Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House, in consultation with the State Curator, shall develop a plan for the acquisition or commission of artwork for the State House collection that incorporates the intent and policies described in subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

(d) Recommendations. The Committee, in consultation with the public and relevant experts, including Vermont historians, artists, and diverse community leaders, shall research and recommend significant historical Vermont leadership stories that warrant artistic inclusion in the State House art collection using the intent and policies described in subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

(e) Report. On or before December 15, 2020, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions with the plan and recommendations described in this section and any recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. 4. 29 V.S.A. § 154a is amended to read:

§ 154a. STATE CURATOR

(a) Creation. The position of State Curator is created within the Department of Buildings and General Services.

(b) Duties. The State Curator's responsibilities shall include:

(1) oversight of the general historic preservation of the State House, including maintaining the historical integrity of the State House and works of art in the State House;

(2) interpretation of the State House to the visiting public through exhibits, publications, and tours; and

(3) acquisition, management, and care of State collections of art and historic furnishings, provided that any works of art for the State House are acquired pursuant to the requirements of 2 V.S.A. § 653(a).

(c) Acquisition policy. In coordination with the Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House, and in accordance with the plan developed pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 653, the State Curator shall adopt an acquisition policy that ensures that the acquisition of art for the State House reflects a diversity of artistic media and artists, the natural history of the State, and the diversity of the people and stories of Vermont throughout the history of the State.

(d) Interpretive plan. In coordination with the Friends of the Vermont State House and the Vermont Historical Society, the State Curator shall create an interpretive plan that tells the stories of the State House art collection through accessible written, multimedia, and oral means. The plan shall include appropriate and inclusive training of State House volunteers and staff.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably by Senator McCormack for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Institutions and when so amended ought to pass.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

S. 297.

An act relating to the Agency of Health Care Administration.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES REORGANIZATION;
WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created a working group to develop proposals for reorganizing the Agency of Human Services.

(b) Membership. The working group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(2) the commissioner of each department within the Agency of Human Services or their designees; and

(3) other interested stakeholders.

(c) Powers and duties. The working group shall consider options for reorganizing, restructuring, or reconfiguring the Agency of Human Services and its departments to best serve Vermonters, including consideration of the following:

(1) whether the Agency of Human Services should be divided into two or more agencies, and if so, how they should be organized;

(2) whether the Agency of Human Services should be divided as follows:

(A) an Agency of Human Services, comprising the Department of Corrections; the Department for Children and Families; the Department of Independent Living, which would provide services to Vermonters who are elders and to individuals with disabilities; and the Human Services Board; and

(B) an Agency of Health Care Administration comprising the Departments of Health Access, of Mental Health and Substance Misuse, of Long-Term Care, and of Public Health; the Health Care Board; and the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange;

(3) how to improve collaboration, integration, and alignment of services across agencies and departments to deliver services built around the needs of individuals and families; and

(4) how to minimize any confusion or disruption that may result from implementing the recommended changes.

(d) Assistance. The working group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Human Services.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2021, the working group shall provide its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall call the first meeting of the working group to occur on or before July 1, 2020.

(2) The working group shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the working group's membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The working group shall cease to exist on January 15, 2021.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to reorganizing the Agency of Human Services.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Clarkson for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE; WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created a working group to evaluate the organizational structure of the Agency of Human Services and to recommend any appropriate modifications to that structure.

(b) Membership. The working group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(2) the commissioner of each department within the Agency of Human Services or their designees; and

(3) three employees of the Agency of Human Services, appointed by the President of the Vermont State Employees Association.

(c) Powers and duties. The working group, in consultation with interested stakeholders, shall consider options for reorganizing, restructuring, or reconfiguring the Agency of Human Services and its departments to best serve Vermonters, including consideration of the following:

(1) whether the Agency of Human Services should be divided into two or more agencies, and if so, how they should be organized;

(2) how to improve collaboration, integration, and alignment of services across agencies and departments to deliver services built around the needs of individuals and families; and

(3) how to minimize any confusion or disruption that may result from implementing the recommended changes.

(d) Assistance. The working group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Human Services.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2021, the working group shall provide its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall call the first meeting of the working group to occur on or before July 1, 2020.

(2) The working group shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the working group's membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) All of the working group's meetings shall be open to the public and all meeting dates, times, and locations shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

(5) The working group shall cease to exist on January 15, 2021.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to the organizational structure of the Agency of Human Services.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MAY 20, 2020

Third Reading

S. 234.

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

Amendment to S. 234 to be offered by Senator Nitka before Third Reading

Senator Nitka moves to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 22, 24 V.S.A. § 1981, in its entirety

And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MAY 21, 2020

Third Reading

S. 295.

An act relating to restrictions on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other chemicals of concern in consumer products.

Amendment to S. 295 to be offered by Senator McCormack before Third Reading

Senator McCormack moves to amend the bill in Sec. 2, 18 V.S.A. chapter 33A, § 1672, subsection (b), subdivisions (1) and (2), by striking out “subsection (a) of this section” and inserting in lieu thereof this subsection in both instances in which it appears.

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 125.

An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

In Sec. 2 by striking out the following: "December 1, 2019" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: February 1, 2021

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare and when so amended ought to pass.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Craig Bolio of Winooski – Commissioner, Department of Taxes – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Finance. (01/21/20)

Sabina Brochu of Williston - Member, State Board of Education - By Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Education. (01/24/20)

Kyle Courtois of Georgia - Member, State Board of Education - By Sen. Perchlik for the Committee on Education. (01/24/20)

Margaret Tandoh of South Burlington – Member, Board of Medical Practice – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (02/11/20)

Holly Morehouse of Burlington – Member, Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs – By Sen. Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (02/12/20)

Susan Hayward of Middlesex – Member, Capitol Complex Commission – By Sen. Benning for the Committee on Institutions. (02/14/20)

Heather Shouldice – Member, Capitol Complex Commission – By Sen. Benning for the Committee on Institutions. (02/14/20)

Dorinne Dorfman – Member, Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs – Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (02/25/20)

Richard Bernstein of Jericho – Member, Board of Medical Practice – Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (03/10/20)

Dawn Philibert of Williston – Member, State Board of Health – Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (03/10/20)