

### Comments on S.146 for consideration in House

#### Sec. 2 – 4:

Change the name to: “Vermont Prescription Drug Advisory Council”. The Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (VPMS) already has its own advisory group and that is not the purpose of this council. The purpose of this council is to advise the commissioner on regulations and policies around prescribing practices (note this could include use of the VPMS, but is not solely around the VPMS).

#### Sec. 5:

Change title to “Director of Prevention”. This person will have a broad view of prevention and will coordinate prevention efforts across departments and agencies. They will be different from the Deputy Commissioner of the Health Department who is focused on substance misuse.

Clarify the requirement language, right now says “either” but lists three options. Health supports keeping the three options:

The Director shall have:

- ~~either a master’s degree in a human services field -level degree specific to substance use disorder~~ or public health, and/or
- ~~appropriate professional level experience in substance use disorders~~ human services, public health or a closely related field ~~or both.~~

#### Sec. 5(a)

(a) Creation. There is created the Substance Misuse Prevention Advisory

Council within the Department of Health for the purpose of consolidating

oversight of substance misuse prevention programs across ~~the Department~~State Government

and for providing advice to the Commissioner ~~and Governor~~ for improving prevention

policies and programming throughout the State. The Advisory Council’s

prevention initiatives shall encompass all substances ~~that are at risk of~~ misused,

including, ~~but not limited to, tobacco and other nicotine delivery systems (e.g., e-cigarettes, vaping);~~ ~~tobacco substitutes;~~ cannabis; ~~controlled drug substances (e.g., opioids, cocaine, methamphetamine);~~ ~~and alcohol.~~

Membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of:

An executive ~~committee~~:

(1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

(2) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee; ~~and~~

(3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

and

**Commented [LJ1]:** Add: Secretary of Human Services and Director of Prevention. Note: All members of the Executive Committee are members of the Council.

~~(3) seven members who collectively shall offer expertise in the following areas are appointed by the Secretary of Human Executive Committee who shall seek, to the extent practicable, to appoint member from across Vermont;~~

~~Services and who collectively offer expertise in the following disciplines and come from a variety of counties across the state;~~

(B) pediatric care specific to substance misuse prevention or substance use disorder;

(C) academic research pertaining to substance misuse prevention or behavioral addiction treatment;

(D) education specific to substance misuse prevention;

(E) child and family trauma prevention and resilience development;

(F) law enforcement in the area of drug enforcement, impaired driving, and community policing; criminal justice, or highway safety; and

(G) the Criminal Justice System; and

(G) community outreach or collaboration in the field of substance misuse prevention.

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Council shall strengthen the State's response to the substance use disorder crisis by advancing evidence-based and evidence-informed substance misuse prevention initiatives. The Advisory Council's duties shall include:

(1) reviewing and making recommendations on best practices to assist communities and schools to significantly reduce the demand for substances through prevention and education;

(2) reviewing substance misuse prevention program evaluations and making specific recommendations for modification based on the results;

(3) reviewing existing State ~~health, mental health, and drug and~~

**Commented [LJ2]:** Membership Consideration: A large table, including diverse multi-sector and stakeholder representation is critical to fully assess challenges and opportunities. Other Council membership for consideration:

- Treatment Provider
- Recovery Community
- Municipalities
- Youth
- Elder population
- Families

All members of the Executive Committee are members of the Council

to eliminate redundancy and to eliminate barriers experienced by communities and schools in coordinating preventative action with State government; and

(4) reviewing existing community-based recreation, afterschool, and parent-child center programs to determine a foundation of connection and support for all Vermont children and youth.

(d) ~~Subcommittees~~Committees. The Advisory Council shall have the ability to create issue-specific ~~C~~subcommittees for the purpose of carrying out its duties. ~~Any~~

(e) Assistance. The Advisory Council shall have the administrative, technical, and ~~communications, legal~~ assistance of ~~the~~ Substance Misuse Prevention Manager established pursuant to section 4804 of this title, ~~and the legal assistance of the Agency of Human Services.~~

(f) Report. Annually on or before January 1, the Advisory Council shall submit a written report to the Governor, the House Committees on

Appropriations and on Human Services, and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(g) Organization.

(1) The ~~Secretary of Human Services or designee and the a substance~~ Council.

(2) Members of the Advisory Council shall serve two-year terms. Any vacancy on the Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The replacement member shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

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

(h) Compensation and reimbursement. Other members of the Advisory Council shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of

expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 ~~for not more than six~~  
this subsection shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of  
Health.

§ 4804. ~~ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT~~ MANAGER OF SUBSTANCE  
MISUSE PREVENTION

~~The Agency of Human Services shall provide the Council with such~~  
administrative support as is necessary for it to accomplish the purposes of this  
~~chapter~~ There is created the permanent position of the Manager of Substance  
Misuse Prevention within the Department of Health for the purpose of:

(1) coordinating the work of the Substance Misuse Prevention Advisory  
Council established pursuant to section 4803 of this title;

(2) coordinating strategic regional plans; and

(3) serving as a liaison to the Director of ~~Substance Misuse~~ Prevention  
established pursuant to section 4800 of this title and to the Agency of  
Education and Department of Public Safety.