

NO. 202. AN ACT RELATING TO COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC NEEDS BUDGET AND THE LIVABLE WAGE.

(H.776)

**Excerpt of legislation follows:**

Sec. 2. BASIC NEEDS BUDGET TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL;

ESTABLISHED; DUTIES

(a) A basic needs budget technical advisory council is established to work with the joint fiscal office and a panel of experts. The council shall:

(1) Review the current methodology for calculating the basic needs budget and determining livable wage.

(2) Take testimony from a variety of stakeholders, including employers and employees, in order to acquire broad public comment.

(3) Make written recommendations for revisions to the methodology to the joint fiscal committee by November 15, 2008.

(b) The basic needs budget technical advisory council shall consist of eight members, who shall serve from July 1, 2008, until January 15, 2009, when the basic needs budget and livable wage report is issued. Members of the council shall include:

(1) One member appointed by the speaker of the house who shall be co-chair and of a different political party from the legislative member appointed under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) One member appointed by the senate president pro tempore who shall be co-chair and of a different political party from the legislative member appointed under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) One member jointly appointed by the speaker of the house and the president pro tempore of the senate who may be from either chamber of the legislature.

(4) Five additional members with expertise and experience with the data and methodology used to calculate the basic needs budgets and who shall include a representative of each of the following selected by the organization:

(A) The Vermont sustainable jobs fund.

(B) The Vermont small business development center.

(C) The agency of human services, division of operations and planning.

(D) The department of labor, economic and labor market information division.

(E) The Vermont society for human resources management.

(c) The chairs of the house committee on general, housing and military affairs and the senate committee on economic development, housing and general affairs, or their designees shall be co-chairs of the council. The joint fiscal office shall provide administrative support and shall engage a panel of independent experts to assist with data analysis and methodological considerations. For service on the council, members of the council who are members of the general assembly shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 406; and other members of the council who are not also state employees shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses as provided to members of state boards by 32 V.S.A. § 1010.