

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; afterschool programs; universal access

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the

5 Task Force for Universal Afterschool Access to consider and make

6 recommendations on the framework for, the costs of, and related long-term

7 funding sources for access to universal afterschool programs.

8 An act relating to universal access to afterschool programs

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

10 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

11 (a) Children who participate in afterschool activities and programs do
12 better in school and in life generally than children without these options.

13 (b) Access to universal afterschool programs expands equity and choices
14 for children and families and supports working parents by reducing the
15 logistical and financial burden of afterschool care.

16 (c) Current research demonstrates that involvement in high-quality
17 afterschool programs decreases a child’s risk for substance abuse. For
18 example, a 2018 McDowell Group report for the Alaska Afterschool Network
19 found that high school students who participated in afterschool programs were
20 39 percent less likely to experiment with marijuana.

1 Sec. 2. TASK FORCE FOR UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL ACCESS

2 (a) Creation. There is created the Task Force for Universal Afterschool
3 Access to consider and make recommendations on the framework for, the costs
4 of, and related long-term funding sources for access to universal after school
5 programs.

6 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following
7 10 members:

8 (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be
9 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

10 (2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
11 Committee on Committees;

12 (3) the Governor or designee;

13 (4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
14 or designee;

15 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
16 designee;

17 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Council of Special Education
18 Administrators or designee;

19 (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or
20 designee;

21 (8) the Executive Director of Vermont Afterschool or designee;

1 (9) the Director of the All-4-One Program in Springfield, Vermont, or
2 designee; and

3 (10) the Director of the LEAPS Afterschool Program in the Franklin
4 Northeast Supervisory Union or designee.

5 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall consider and make
6 recommendations on the framework for, the costs of, and related long-term
7 funding sources for access to universal afterschool programs. The Task Force
8 shall map existing afterschool programs and highlight gaps in access and
9 equity, including equity for Vermonters with disabilities. In exploring funding
10 sources, the Task Force shall prefer solutions that do not draw upon the State’s
11 Education Fund and shall explore the possibility of using potential revenue
12 from the taxation and regulation of cannabis. The Task Force may recommend
13 legislative language to enact its recommendations.

14 (d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,
15 and legal assistance of Legislative Council.

16 (e) Meetings.

17 (1) The Governor shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur
18 on or before June 30, 2020.

19 (2) The Task Force shall select a chair from among its members at the
20 first meeting.

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

1 (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on December 16, 2020.

2 (f) Reports. On or before December 15, 2020, the Task Force shall submit
3 a written report to the Governor and the House and Senate Committees on
4 Education with its findings and recommendations.

5 (g) Reimbursement.

6 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
7 Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in his or her
8 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
9 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than six
10 meetings.

11 (2) Members of the Task Force who are not employees of the State of
12 Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
13 attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
14 expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings.

15 (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$8,700.00 is appropriated for fiscal year
16 2021 from the General Fund to the Agency of Administration to provide
17 funding for per diem compensation and reimbursement under subsection (g) of
18 this section.

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.