

S.184 Alternatives

Legislative Council – February 27, 2020

First, here is the language from **S.184**:

Sec. 1. REPORT; SUPPORTIVE YOUTH PROGRAMMING

(a) The Agency of Human Services, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall complete an inventory of those programs offered in Vermont aimed at preventing youth substance misuse and truancy. The Agencies shall indicate which programs attain the highest success rates and are capable of replication, as well as system and geographic gaps.

Next, here is the language from **2019 Acts and Resolves No. Act 82**, requiring the creation of a Substance Misuse Prevention Inventory:

* * * Substance Misuse Prevention Inventory * * *

Sec. 5. INVENTORY; SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION SERVICES

(a) On or before January 1, 2021, the Manager of Substance Misuse Prevention established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4804, in consultation with the Chief Prevention Officer established pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2321, shall develop and submit to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare an inventory of substance misuse prevention programs in the State. The Manager shall include in the inventory:

- (1) the estimated cost and funding source of each program;
- (2) the geographic reach of each program;
- (3) the effectiveness of each program; and
- (4) any identified gaps in services.

As you can see, the Substance Misuse Prevention inventory considers “substance misuse prevention programs” generally. Unlike 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 82, S.184 focuses on *youth* substance misuse prevention programming and truancy.

Finally, here is the language from **S.335**, currently referred to House Education:

Sec. 2. TASK FORCE FOR UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL ACCESS

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

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(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall consider and make recommendations on the framework for, the costs of, and related long-term funding sources for access to universal afterschool programs.

(1) The Task Force shall map existing afterschool programs and highlight gaps in access and equity, including equity for Vermonters with disabilities.

(2) The Task Force shall recommend, as part of the framework, best practices and key evidence-based strategies to maximize health and substance abuse prevention and shall consult with the Substance Misuse Prevention and Advisory Council.

(3) The Task Force shall consider the report entitled “Closing the Gap in Vermont: The Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Special Fund,” dated November 2015, issued by the Working Group on Expanded Learning Opportunities of Vermont’s PreK–16 Council.

(4) The Task Force shall review the status and results of the Afterschool for All Grant Program administered by the Department for Children and Families

(5) The Task Force shall explore all funding sources and shall prefer solutions that do not draw upon the State’s Education Fund.

(6) The Task Force may recommend legislative language to enact its recommendations.

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This bill focuses on universal afterschool programming, highlighting issues of access and equity. If passed, the Task Force will consult with the Substance Misuse Prevention and Advisory Council to recommend strategies to “maximize health” and prevent substance abuse. This bill does not require an inventory of supportive youth programming, instead requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations. This bill does not require an assessment of programming aimed at preventing truancy.

Options:

- As youth programming is likely to be covered by the inventory required in 2019 Acts and Resolves. No. 82, the Committee could amend S.335(c)(2) to specify that truancy should also be addressed:

(2) The Task Force shall recommend, as part of the framework, best practices and key evidence-based strategies to reduce truancy and maximize health and substance ~~abuse-misuse~~ prevention and shall consult with the Substance Misuse Prevention and Advisory Council.

- Alternatively, you also heard a recommendation in Committee that since the RFP for the inventory has yet to go out, you could write a letter asking the Commissioner to include truancy prevention programming as part of the inventory.