

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 297 entitled “An act relating to the Agency of Health Care
4 Administration” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

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

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

13 (1) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

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

16 (3) other interested stakeholders.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (f) Meetings.

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

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

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

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

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage.

14 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act
15 relating to reorganizing the Agency of Human Services”

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18 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE