

H.465

An act relating to boards and commissions

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

* * * Repeal of Vermont Educational Health Benefits Commission * * *

Sec. 1. REPEAL OF VERMONT EDUCATIONAL HEALTH BENEFITS
COMMISSION

2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. H.7 (Vermont Educational Health
Benefits Commission) is repealed.

* * * Repeal of Study Committee on Sales and Use Tax * * *

Sec. 2. REPEAL OF STUDY COMMITTEE ON SALES AND USE TAX

2012 Acts and Resolves No. 143, Sec. 53 (study committee on sales and use
tax) is repealed.

* * * Repeal of Committee on Enhancing Vermont's Software and
Information Technology Economy * * *

Sec. 3. REPEAL OF ENHANCING VERMONT'S SOFTWARE AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ECONOMY

2012 Acts and Resolves No. 143, Sec. 53a (enhancing Vermont's software
and information technology economy) is repealed.

* * * Repeal of Youth in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and
Food Production Consortium * * *

Sec. 4. 21 V.S.A. chapter 14 is amended to read:

~~CHAPTER 14. YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES,
AND FOOD PRODUCTION~~

~~§ 1151. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE~~

~~(a) The General Assembly finds that:~~

~~(1) Agriculture, natural resources, and food production play a central
role in the economy and culture of Vermont.~~

~~(2) Farms and farm-based industries are experiencing an ever-increasing
need for workers who are willing to work the hours involved in farming and
who have the multiple skills necessary to handle successfully the multiple and
varied responsibilities of farming.~~

~~(3) Farms have always provided the environment for youth to acquire
workplace skills such as responsibility, creativity, and initiative and
occupational skills ranging from plant and animal science to economics and to
grow therefore into sought-after workers by a wide variety of employers.~~

~~(4) Programs such as the Farm Youth Corps have provided the
infrastructure that is necessary to connect youth to careers in agriculture,
natural resources, and food production.~~

~~(5) Programs that have provided youth with the opportunity to work on farms have declined due to reductions in federal funding.~~

~~(b) Therefore, it is the purpose of this chapter to create and support programs for youth that will engage them in agriculture, natural resources, and food production in order to:~~

~~(1) Provide them an opportunity to engage in work that provides them with hands-on learning and allows them to develop a strong work ethic and vital workplace and occupational skills that will be valuable in any career they might pursue.~~

~~(2) Encourage youth to pursue pathways to careers in agriculture, natural resources, and food production.~~

~~(3) Provide farmers with young short-term workers and the opportunity to mentor future, long-term employees.~~

~~(4) Ensure that youth are aware of the benefits of agriculture, natural resources, and food production to themselves and to Vermont.~~

~~§ 1152. YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND
FOOD PRODUCTION CONSORTIUM; CREATION~~

~~(a) There is created a Youth in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Food Production Consortium of program providers in order that programs to build pathways to careers in agriculture, natural resources, and food production may be connected, developed, and supported in a coordinated manner. The~~

~~Consortium shall comprise employees of the Department of Labor assigned by the Commissioner of Labor; employees of the Agency of Education assigned by the Secretary of Education; employees of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets; employees of the Agency of Natural Resources appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources; representatives of the Extension Service of the University of Vermont selected by the Service; and representatives from agriculture, food, and natural resources businesses appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.~~

~~(b) The consortium shall be attached to the Department of Labor for administrative support. It shall elect its own chair and meet as required to fulfill its obligations under this chapter.~~

~~§ 1153. YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND
FOOD PRODUCTION CONSORTIUM; POWERS AND DUTIES~~

~~(a) The Consortium shall be charged with the oversight of the development and coordination of programs in agriculture, natural resources, and food production, and education to connect youths' experiences in agriculture, natural resources, and food production to their in-school learning and develop pathways for pursuing further education related to agriculture or natural resources. It shall seek to coordinate and connect programs around common standards, coordinate resources, provide a clearinghouse for information and~~

~~technical assistance, establish a strong business and education partnership; identify missing components of the system, and oversee funds made available for the express purpose of implementing these pathways. It shall endeavor to sustain and expand programming in agriculture, natural resources, and food production on a statewide basis in order to affect middle and secondary school students in Vermont. The Consortium shall seek to ensure the effectiveness of all the programs in reaching large numbers of students, and in so far as possible, seek to provide programs in all regions of the State through a statewide system with uniform availability, eligibility, and funding requirements to make such opportunities available to all students.~~

~~(b) Among the programs to be reviewed and coordinated by the Consortium are projects that involve agriculture and the environment; programs within the elementary and middle school system that provide hands-on learning, such as “Ag in the Classroom” sponsored by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and “Forest, Fields, and Futures” sponsored by UVM Extension; and secondary school programs in agriculture and natural resources related areas in education; “Smokeyhouse” and other career technical education, agriculture, and natural resources programs offered by high schools and regional CTE centers. In addition, it shall review and coordinate programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps and the Farm Youth Corps of the Department of Labor, which has offered summer~~

~~employment for students on farms, and other summer employment programs and alternative programs for in-school youth operated outside the public school funding system.~~

(e) ~~[Repealed.]~~ [Repealed.]

* * * Repeal of the Department of Labor Advisory Council * * *

Sec. 5. 21 V.S.A. § 1306 is amended to read:

§ 1306. ~~ADVISORY COUNCIL; MEMBERS; TERMS~~

~~(a) The Governor shall appoint a State Department of Labor Advisory Council composed of eight members from the general public to include four employer representatives and four employee representatives who may fairly be regarded as employees because of their vocations, employment, and affiliations. Appointment of the four employee representatives, at least one of whom shall have experience in workers' compensation law and one of whom shall be a member of a building trade, shall be made from a list of qualified individuals submitted by the Vermont State Labor Council, the Vermont State Employees' Association, and the Vermont National Education Association. Appointment of the four employer representatives shall be made from a list of qualified individuals submitted by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Associated General Contractors of Vermont, and Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility. The Council members shall be appointed for staggered terms of four years. The Council shall meet at least three times a year.~~

~~(b) The Council shall advise the Commissioner regarding formulating policies by discussing the problems related to the functions and duties of the Department in order to develop impartial solutions and approaches to these issues.~~

~~(c) The Commissioner may establish subcommittees composed solely of labor or management representatives and use a portion of the Council's meeting time to meet with these subcommittees.~~

~~(d) Each member of the Council who is not a salaried official or State employee or is not otherwise compensated through employment for attending Council meetings is entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010. [Repealed.]~~

* * * Repeal of Working Group on State Workforce Development * * *

Sec. 6. REPEAL OF WORKING GROUP ON STATE WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

2017 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. E.1 (State workforce development system; report) is repealed.

* * * Repeal of Council Advisory Committee * * *

Sec. 7. 20 V.S.A. § 2410 is amended to read:

§ 2410. ~~COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE~~

~~(a) Creation. There is created the Council Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Council regarding its duties under this subchapter.~~

~~(1) The Committee shall specifically advise and assist the Council in developing procedures to ensure that allegations of unprofessional conduct by law enforcement officers are investigated fully and fairly, and to ensure that appropriate action is taken in regard to those allegations.~~

~~(2) The Committee shall be advisory only and shall not have any decision-making authority.~~

~~(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of five individuals appointed by the Governor. The Governor may solicit recommendations for appointments from the Chair of the Council.~~

~~(1) Four of these members shall be public members who during incumbency shall not serve and shall have never served as a law enforcement officer or corrections officer and shall not have an immediate family member who is serving or has ever served as either of those officers.~~

~~(2) One of these members shall be a retired law enforcement officer.~~

~~(e) Assistance. The Executive Director of the Council or designee shall attend Committee meetings as a resource for the Committee.~~

~~(d) Reimbursement. Members of the Committee who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than~~

~~five meetings per year. Such payments shall be derived from the budget of the Council.~~ [Repealed.]

* * * Boards and Commissions; Per Diem Compensation * * *

Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 1010 is amended to read:

§ 1010. MEMBERS OF CERTAIN BOARDS

(a) Except for those members serving ex officio or otherwise regularly employed by the State, the members of the following boards shall be entitled to receive ~~\$50.00 in~~ per diem compensation:

- (1) Board of Bar Examiners
- (2) Board of Libraries
- (3) Vermont Milk Commission
- (4) Board of Education
- (5) State Board of Health
- (6) Emergency Board
- (7) Board of Liquor and Lottery
- (8) Human Services Board
- (9) State Fish and Wildlife Board
- (10) State Board of Mental Health
- (11) Vermont Employment Security Board
- (12) Capitol Complex Commission
- (13) Natural Gas and Oil Resources Board

- (14) Transportation Board
- (15) Vermont Veterans' Home Board of Trustees
- (16) Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- (17) The Electricians' Licensing Board
- (18) [Repealed.]
- (19) Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Review Board
- (20) Community High School of Vermont Board
- (21) Parole Board

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, members of professional or occupational licensing boards or commissions, advisory boards or commissions, appeals boards, promotional boards, interstate boards, supervisory boards and councils, or any other boards, commissions, or similar entities that are not listed in subsection (a) of this section but are otherwise entitled by act of the General Assembly to receive per diem compensation, shall be entitled to receive per diem compensation ~~in the amount of \$50.00 per day~~ for each day devoted to official duties. ~~This subsection shall not reduce the amount of per diem compensation provided by act of the General Assembly to members of boards or commissions entitled to receive more than \$50.00 per day.~~

(2) "Per diem" means the amount of compensation to which a member of a statutory board or commission is entitled for:

(A) attendance at a regular or special meeting of such board or commission or any committee thereof; or

(B) performance of other duties directly related to the efficient conduct of necessary board business as assigned and approved by the chairperson, provided that payment for such duties shall be at the per diem rate prorated for actual time spent performing duties. Proration shall be calculated based on an eight-hour day. Under no circumstances shall the daily payment exceed the per diem amount.

(c) The members of the boards and commissions, including those members serving ex officio or otherwise regularly employed by the State, shall be entitled to receive their actual and necessary expenses when away from home or office upon their official duties.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, a member shall not be entitled to receive State per diem compensation for any meeting or other official duty for which specific compensation is provided by another source.

(e) Per diem compensation authorized under this section for members of boards, commissions, councils, and committees and all other management, policymaking, or advisory bodies, including temporary study commissions, of the Executive Branch, whether appointed by the Governor or not, shall be not less than \$50.00 per day and shall be approved pursuant to this subsection.

(1) The annual budget report of the Governor submitted to the General Assembly as required by 32 V.S.A. § 306 shall contain a separate schedule, by entity, that provides the per diem compensation rate established for the current fiscal year and the per diem rate proposed for the next fiscal year. This schedule shall also provide, by entity, the total per diem amounts paid and total expenses reimbursed for all members of the entity in the most recently ended fiscal year.

(2) In the annual budget documentation submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, any agency or department that administers funds for a board, commission, council, and committee and all other management, policymaking, or advisory bodies, including temporary study commissions, shall provide a list of the entities and the current and projected per diem rate and expense reimbursement for each entity.

~~(f) Members of the Parole Board shall be entitled to receive \$100.00 per diem for each day of official duties together with reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. [Repealed.]~~

(g) The Governor may authorize per diem compensation and expense reimbursement in accordance with this section for members of boards, commissions, councils, and committees and all other management, policymaking, or advisory bodies, including temporary study commissions, created by executive order. Per diems and expense reimbursement authorized

under this subsection shall be effective as of the effective date of the executive order but shall subsequently be reviewed and approved pursuant to the approval process of subsection (e) of this section during the next budgetary cycle.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023