

1 S.173

2 Introduced by Senators Hardy and Clarkson

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Legislature; State House; Legislative Advisory Committee on the  
6 State House; State Curator

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) amend  
8 the duties of the Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House and  
9 rename the Committee the “State House Oversight Committee;” (2) require  
10 that the State House Oversight Committee approve the State House collections  
11 policy and interpretive plan; and (3) direct the State House Oversight  
12 Committee, the State Curator, and the Friends of the Vermont State House to  
13 enter into a memorandum of understanding.

14 An act relating to the State House Oversight Committee

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

16 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. chapter 19 is amended to read:

17 CHAPTER 19: ~~LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE~~  
18 STATE HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

19 § 651. ~~LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATE~~  
20 HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

1 (a) The ~~Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House Oversight~~  
2 Committee is created.

3 (b) The Committee shall be composed of ~~13~~ 11 members:

4 (1) ~~four~~ three members of the House of Representatives, appointed  
5 biennially by the Speaker of the House;

6 (2) ~~four~~ three members of the Senate, appointed biennially by the  
7 Committee on Committees;

8 (3) the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the Vermont  
9 State House;

10 (4) the Director of the Vermont Historical Society;

11 (5) the Director of the Vermont Council on the Arts;

12 (6) the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services or designee;

13 and

14 (7) the Sergeant at Arms.

15 (c) The Committee shall biennially elect a chair from among its legislative  
16 members. A quorum shall consist of ~~seven~~ six members.

17 (d) The Committee shall meet at the State House at least one time when the  
18 General Assembly is in session and at least one time when the General  
19 Assembly is not in session or at the call of the Chair. The Commissioner of  
20 Buildings and General Services shall keep minutes of the meetings and  
21 maintain a file thereof.

1 (e) The Committee shall have the assistance of the Office of Legislative  
2 Counsel and the Office of Legislative Operations.

3 § 652. PER DIEM AND EXPENSES; LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

4 For meetings held during adjournment of the General Assembly, the  
5 legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem  
6 compensation and expense reimbursement as provided in subsection 406(a) of  
7 this title.

8 § 653. FUNCTIONS

9 (a)(1) The ~~Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House~~ shall be  
10 consulted on all activities relating to the acquisition and care of paintings and  
11 historic artifacts and furnishings, and the refurbishing, renovation,  
12 preservation, and expansion of the building and its interior.

13 (2) The ~~Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House~~ shall  
14 develop a plan for the acquisition or commission of artwork for the State  
15 House collection that represents Vermont's diverse people and history,  
16 including diversity of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and disability status.

17 (3) The Committee shall approve the collections policy and the  
18 interpretive plan as described in 29 V.S.A. § 154a.

19 (b) The Sergeant at Arms and the Commissioner of Buildings and General  
20 Services, in discharging responsibilities under subdivision 62(a)(6) of this title  
21 and 29 V.S.A. §§ 154(a) and 154a, respectively, shall consider the

1 recommendations of the Committee. ~~The Committee's recommendations shall~~  
2 ~~be advisory only.~~

3 (c) The Committee shall create the subcommittees listed in this subsection  
4 and may also create other subcommittees to advise the Committee and carry  
5 out any other duties. The Committee shall appoint members of each  
6 subcommittee, which shall each have seven members. Each subcommittee  
7 shall have at least three members of the Committee and at least three  
8 individuals with relevant expertise who are not members of the Committee  
9 who serve as members of subcommittees.

10 (1) Collections and Exhibitions Subcommittee. The Collections and  
11 Exhibitions Subcommittee shall focus on oversight of the State House  
12 collections policy, approving acquisitions for the State House art collection of  
13 \$5,000.00 or more in value, and any plans for major exhibitions at the State  
14 House.

15 (2) State House Renovations and Expansion. The State House  
16 Renovations and Expansion Committee shall focus on proposals to renovate or  
17 expand the State House.

18 (d) The Chair of the Committee, the State Curator, and the President of the  
19 Friends of the Vermont State House shall execute a memorandum of  
20 understanding to coordinate the policies, oversight, and care of the State House  
21 artwork collection.

1 Sec. 2. 29 V.S.A. § 154a is amended to read:

2 § 154a. STATE CURATOR

3 (a) Creation. The position of State Curator is created within the Department  
4 of Buildings and General Services.

5 (b) Duties. The State Curator's responsibilities shall include:

6 (1) oversight of the general historic preservation of the State House,  
7 including maintaining the historical integrity of the State House and works of  
8 art in the State House;

9 (2) interpretation of the State House to the visiting public through  
10 exhibits, publications, and tours; and

11 (3) acquisition, management, and care of State collections of art and  
12 historic furnishings, provided that any works of art for the State House are  
13 acquired pursuant to the requirements of 2 V.S.A. § 653(a).

14 (c) ~~Acquisition~~ Collections policy. In ~~coordination with the Legislative~~  
15 ~~Advisory Committee on the State House, and in~~ accordance with the plan  
16 developed pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 653, and upon approval of the State House  
17 Oversight Committee, the State Curator shall adopt ~~an acquisition~~ a collections  
18 policy that ensures that the acquisition of art for the State House reflects a  
19 diversity of artistic media and artists, the natural history of the State, and the  
20 diversity of the people and stories of Vermont throughout the history of the  
21 State.

1           (d) Interpretive plan. In coordination with the Friends of the Vermont State  
2           House and the Vermont Historical Society and with the approval of the State  
3           House Oversight Committee, the State Curator shall create an interpretive plan  
4           that tells the stories of the State House art collection through accessible  
5           written, multimedia, and oral means. The plan shall include appropriate and  
6           inclusive training of State House volunteers and staff.

7           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.