

1 S.173

2 Introduced by Senators Hardy and Clarkson

3 Referred to Committee on Government Operations

4 Date: January 4, 2022

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~~

An act relating to the State House art collections

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 STATE~~

18 ~~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 ~~(c) 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, 20 V.S.A. § 154a is amended to read:~~

2 § 154a. STATE CURATOR

3 (a) Creation. The position of State Curator is created within the
4 Department 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~~
2 State House and the Vermont Historical Society and with the approval of the
3 State House Oversight Committee, the State Curator shall create an
4 interpretive plan that tells the stories of the State House art collection through
5 accessible written, multimedia, and oral means. The plan shall include
6 appropriate and inclusive training of State House volunteers and staff.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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

*CHAPTER 19. LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE
STATE HOUSE*

*§ 651. LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATE
HOUSE*

(a) The Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House is created.

(b) The Committee shall be composed of ~~13~~ 12 members:

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

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

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

(4) the Director of the Vermont Historical Society;

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

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

and

(7) the State Curator; and

(8) the Sergeant at Arms.

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

(d) The Committee shall meet ~~at the State House~~ at least one time when the General Assembly is in session ~~and at least one time when~~. When the General Assembly is not in session or at the call of the Chair, the Committee shall meet at least one time, but the Committee and any subcommittees shall not cumulatively meet more than six times per year; provided, however, that the Committee and any subcommittees of the Committee may meet more often with the approval of the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall keep minutes of the meetings and maintain a file thereof.

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

§ 652. PER DIEM AND EXPENSES; LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

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

§ 653. FUNCTIONS

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

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

(b) The Sergeant at Arms and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in discharging responsibilities under subdivision 62(a)(6) of this title and 29 V.S.A. §§ 154(a) and 154a, respectively, shall consider the recommendations of the Committee. ~~The Committee's recommendations shall be advisory only.~~

(c)(1) The Committee may establish permanent or ad hoc subcommittees as needed to carry out its duties.

(2) A collections subcommittee of the Committee shall, in coordination with experts, develop a collections policy for recommendation to the Committee.

(d) The Sergeant at Arms, the State Curator, the President of the Friends of the Vermont State House, and the Chair of the Joint Legislative Management Committee shall execute a memorandum of understanding to coordinate the policies, oversight, and care of the State House artwork collection.

Sec. 2. 2 V.S.A. § 62 is amended to read:

§ 62. LEGISLATIVE DUTIES

(a) The Sergeant at Arms shall:

(1) execute orders of either house, the Joint Legislative Management Committee, the Committee on Joint Rules, or the House or Senate Committee on Rules;

(2) maintain order among spectators and take measures to prevent interruption of either house or any committee thereof;

(3) arrange for special meetings and conferences at the State House;

(4) provide for the distribution of mail to all legislators;

(5) schedule the time for the use of rooms for committee meetings and hearings;

~~(6) maintain the State House and its furnishings in a good state of repair and provide security for all furniture, draperies, rugs, desks, and other furnishings kept in the State House, in consultation with the State Curator;~~

(7) provide for the establishment of a cafeteria and supervise its operation;

(8) provide security for the State House, pursuant to the responsibilities set forth in 29 V.S.A. § 171; and

(9) perform such other duties for the benefit of the legislators as may be required by any duly authorized committee thereof.

(b) He or she or any person in his or her employ shall not accept any compensation or gift for his or her services other than his or her salary. If he or she or any person in his or her employ violates this provision, he or she shall be fined \$25.00.

(c) The Sergeant at Arms shall not be responsible for structural repairs, capital improvements, ~~or building for maintenance for the~~ or curating the historic State House and its collections (as the term maintenance is defined in

29 V.S.A. § 159) or for the use, upkeep, or maintenance of the State House grounds.

(d) The Sergeant at Arms and employees of the Sergeant at Arms shall seek guidance from and operate in accordance with policies adopted by the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

Sec. 3. 29 V.S.A. § 154a is amended to read:

§ 154a. STATE CURATOR

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

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

(1) ~~oversight of the general historic preservation of the State House, including maintaining the historical integrity of the State House and works of art in the State House~~ its collections of art, decorative arts, and furnishings;

(2) interpretation of the State House to the visiting public through exhibits, publications, and tours, and other means of communication; ~~and~~

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

(4) oversight and management of the State's historic and contemporary art and collections in State buildings and on State property.

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

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

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.