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S.198

Introduced by Senators Lyons, Hooker and Ram Hinsdale

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; diaper need; working group

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the Diaper Need Working Group.

An act relating to the Diaper Need Working Group

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) over 17,000 Vermonters are under three years of age;

(2) 24 percent of Vermonters under three years of age live in families

earning between 100 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level;

(3) most child care facilities require parents to provide diapers for their

child; and

(4) during the COVID-19 pandemic, funding was allocated to support

the purchase and distribution of diapers to Vermont food shelves.

1       Sec. 2. DIAPER NEED WORKING GROUP; REPORT

2           (a) Creation. There is created the Diaper Need Working Group to study  
3           and provide recommendations on the best way to provide diapers to families  
4           with low income in Vermont to alleviate diaper need.

5           (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following  
6           members:

7           (1) two current members of the House of Representatives, not all from  
8           the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

9           (2) two current members of the Senate, not all from the same political  
10          party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

11          (3) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

12          (4) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

13          (5) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

14          (6) an employee, volunteer, or representative of a Vermont diaper bank,  
15          appointed by the Speaker of the House;

16          (7) a representative of a Vermont foodbank, food shelf, or food pantry,  
17          appointed by the Committee on Committees;

18          (8) a representative of the parent-child centers, appointed by the  
19          Vermont Parent Child Center Network;

20          (9) a pediatrician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33,  
21          peditric nurse licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, or other health care

1 provider familiar with the needs of infants and young children, appointed by  
2 the Vermont Medical Society; and

3 (10) two parents of an infant or young child with low income, not from  
4 the same family, at least one of whom identifies as a person who is Black,  
5 Indigenous, or a Person of Color.

6 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall study and make  
7 recommendations concerning how best to address diaper need experienced by  
8 families in Vermont with the goal of alleviating diaper need in Vermont. The  
9 Working Group shall address:

10 (1) the scope of diaper need in Vermont;

11 (2) the most efficient and appropriate method of diaper distribution to  
12 families experiencing diaper need; and

13 (3) the potential fiscal impacts of addressing diaper need in Vermont  
14 and appropriate sources of funding.

15 (d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,  
16 technical, and legal assistance of the Department for Children and Families.

17 (e) Report. On or before December 1, 2022, the Working Group shall  
18 submit a written report to the House Committee on Human Services and the  
19 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with its findings and  
20 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action.

1       (f) Meetings.

2           (1) The Commissioner for Children and Families or designee shall call  
3 the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or before August 1, 2022.

4           (2) The Working Group shall select a chair from among its members at  
5 the first meeting.

6           (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

7           (4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on December 1, 2022.

8       (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

9           (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
10 Assembly, a legislative member of the Working Group serving in the  
11 member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation  
12 and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than  
13 eight meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to  
14 the General Assembly.

15           (2) Other members of the Working Group shall be entitled to per diem  
16 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.  
17 § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from  
18 monies appropriated to the Department for Children and Families.

19       (h) Appropriation.

20           (1) The sum of \$ 7,000.00 is appropriated to the General Assembly from  
21 the General Fund in fiscal year 2023 for per diem compensation and

1 reimbursement of expenses for the legislative members of the Working Group  
2 pursuant to subdivision (g)(1) of this section.

3 (2) The sum of \$ 6,000.00 is appropriated to the Department for  
4 Children and Families from the General Fund in fiscal year 2023 for per diem  
5 compensation and reimbursement of expenses for the members of the Working  
6 Group pursuant to subdivision (g)(2) of this section.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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