

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 13
3 entitled “An act relating to the implementation of the Pupil Weighting Factors
4 Report” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. TASK FORCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUPIL
8 WEIGHTING FACTORS REPORT

9 (a) Creation. There is created the Task Force on the Implementation of the
10 Pupil Weighting Factors Report. The Task Force shall recommend how to
11 implement the equalized pupil weighting changes outlined in the Pupil
12 Weighting Factors Report dated December 24, 2019, produced by a University
13 of Vermont-led team of researchers (Report).

14 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following six
15 members:

16 (1) a member of the Senate Committee on Finance, appointed by the
17 Chair of the Committee;

18 (2) a member of the Senate Committee on Education, appointed by the
19 Chair of the Committee;

20 (3) a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, appointed
21 by the Chair of the Committee;

1 (4) a member of the House Committee on Education, appointed by the
2 Chair of the Committee;

3 (5) the Secretary of Education or designee; and

4 (6) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee.

5 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall recommend how to implement
6 the equalized pupil weighting changes outlined in the Report and shall:

7 (1) recommend which weighting factors to modify or create and their
8 associated weights and whether any weights should be eliminated in lieu of use
9 of categorical grants;

10 (2) recommend whether and how to ensure that school districts are using
11 funding to meet education quality standards and improve student outcomes and
12 opportunities;

13 (3) consider education property tax rates and the taxing capacity of
14 school districts and how the Task Force’s weighting factors recommendations
15 relate to the recommendations of the Tax Structure Commission;

16 (4) recommend how to transition to the new weights to promote equity
17 and ease the financial impact on school districts during the transition to the
18 new weights, including the availability and use of federal funding during the
19 transition;

20 (5) consider use of categorical aid, including whether categorical aid
21 should be used instead of some or all of the weighting factors and, if weighting

1 factors are used, whether small schools grants, transportation aid, and other
2 State grant funding targeted for a specific purpose should be adjusted or
3 terminated;

4 (6) recommend how tuition rates for non-operating school districts and
5 career technical centers should be adjusted to account for the cost of educating
6 students as reflected in the recommended weights;

7 (7) consider school funding formulas in other states and alternative
8 models for school funding;

9 (8) consider the relationship between the recommended weights and the
10 changes to special education funding under 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173;
11 and

12 (9) consider the impact of the recommended weights on the goals and
13 outcomes of 1998 Acts and Resolves No. 60 and 2015 Acts and Resolves No.
14 46, each as amended.

15 (d) Consultant. The Task Force may retain a consultant to assist it with
16 executing its powers and duties.

17 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2022, the Task Force shall submit a
18 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House
19 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance with its
20 findings and recommendations for legislative action.

1 (f) Meetings.

2 (1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Task
3 Force to occur on or before August 1, 2021.

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

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

7 (4) The Task Force shall meet not more than six times.

8 (g) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,
9 and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

10 (h) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during
11 adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force
12 shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses
13 pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six meetings. These payments
14 shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

15 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS

16 (a) The sum of \$5,400.00 is appropriated from the General Fund in fiscal
17 year 2022 to the General Assembly for per diem and reimbursement of
18 expenses for members of the Task Force on the Implementation of the Pupil
19 Weighting Factors Report created under Sec. 1 of this act.

20 (b) The sum of \$[] is appropriated from the General Fund in fiscal year
21 2022 to the General Assembly for consultant expenses of the Task Force on the

1 Implementation of the Pupil Weighting Factors Report created under Sec. 1 of
2 this act.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.

5

6 (Committee vote: _____)

7

8

Senator _____

9

FOR THE COMMITTEE