

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 248
3 entitled “An act relating to the governance of the Vermont State Colleges and
4 the University of Vermont” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. VERMONT PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SHARED
8 GOVERNANCE; REPORT

9 (a) Legislative intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to encourage
10 a more inclusive shared governance structure among Vermont’s public higher
11 education institutions. The Vermont State Colleges (VSC) and University of
12 Vermont (UVM) are essential parts of Vermont’s landscape. It is in the best
13 interests of the State that the voices of faculty, staff, and students reach the
14 Board of Trustees and have an impact on their decision-making processes. The
15 General Assembly acknowledges that VSC is going through a transformation
16 period and encourages VSC to think about governance during this period. The
17 General Assembly also acknowledges that UVM has made progress in getting
18 those voices heard by including faculty and staff on some standing
19 subcommittees of the UVM Board of Trustees. However, the General
20 Assembly encourages both VSC and UVM to increase communication and
21 input from faculty, staff, and students within their governance structures.

1 (b) Report. On or before January 15, 2023, VSC and UVM shall both issue
2 written reports to the Senate and House Committees on Education detailing the
3 progress each institution has made to advance the communication and input of
4 faculty, staff, and students with the Boards of Trustees for each institution.
5 Options VSC and UVM shall consider in increasing such communication and
6 input shall include creating Board of Trustees liaisons to the faculty, staff, and
7 students as well as adding faculty, staff, and students to standing Trustee
8 subcommittees within each institution. The report shall include an analysis of
9 the pros and cons of each option the institution considered; details of efforts
10 already taken; plans for future efforts; and recommendations for any legislative
11 action to increase faculty, staff, and student input within the governance
12 structure of each institution.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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17 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE