

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 create a
10 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 expects 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 expects both VSC and UVM to increase communication and input
21 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 adding faculty and staff members to the Board of Trustees;
7 creating Board of Trustees liaisons to the faculty, staff, and students; adding
8 faculty, staff, and students to standing Trustee subcommittees within each
9 institution; and updating institutional bylaws to be more inclusive. In
10 evaluating options to increase communication and input and preparing the
11 report detailing those efforts, both VSC and UVM shall consult with their
12 respective faculty governing bodies. The report shall include an analysis of the
13 pros and cons of each option the institution considered; details of efforts
14 already taken; plans for future efforts; and recommendations for any legislative
15 action to increase faculty, staff, and student input within the governance
16 structure of each institution.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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21 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE