

1 Introduced by Senator Lyons

2 Referred to Committee on

3 Date:

4 Subject: Health; public health; statewide health emergencies; strategic plan

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
6 task force to evaluate Vermont’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and
7 develop a strategic State plan for addressing future statewide health care
8 emergencies.

9 An act relating to a health emergency task force and State plan

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

11 Sec. 1. HEALTH EMERGENCY TASK FORCE AND STATE PLAN

12 (a)(1) On or before January 1, 2022, the Secretary of the Administration
13 shall consolidate data collected by each department and agency involved in
14 Vermont’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic regarding the respective
15 department’s or agency’s role in responding to the pandemic. Data collected
16 by responsive departments and agencies shall include:

17 (A) policy modifications implemented in response to the COVID-19
18 pandemic, including the effectiveness and limitation of each modification;

19 (B) identification of any populations, regions, or infrastructures that
20 would have benefitted from more timely or robust State interventions, or both;

1 (C) alternative responses and policies that would have better served

2 Vermonters;

3 (D) opportunities to prevent, mitigate, and better respond to future
4 health emergencies; and

5 (E) any other relevant information necessary to ensure that
6 Vermont’s experience during the COVID-19 pandemic informs future
7 statewide health emergency responses.

8 (2) On or before September 1, 2021, responsive departments and
9 agencies shall submit all data required by subdivision (1) of this subsection to
10 the Secretary of the Administration.

11 (b) On or before September 1, 2021, the Secretary of Administration shall
12 convene a task force for the purpose of evaluating Vermont’s response to the
13 COVID-19 pandemic and developing a strategic State plan for addressing
14 future statewide health emergencies.

15 (c) The task force shall be composed of the following members:

16 (1) the Secretary of Administration, who shall serve as chair;

17 (2) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

18 (3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

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

20 (5) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or
21 designee;

- 1 (6) the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access or designee;
- 2 (7) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;
- 3 (8) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;
- 4 (9) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;
- 5 (10) the Secretary of Education or designee;
- 6 (11) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;
- 7 (12) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development;
- 8 (13) the Secretary of State or designee; and
- 9 (14) any other persons the Secretary of Administration believes would
10 be helpful in carrying out the task force’s charge.

11 (d)(1) The task force shall review and use data submitted pursuant to
12 subsection (a) of this section to create a strategic State plan for addressing
13 future statewide health emergencies that may arise. On or before February 15,
14 2022, the task force shall submit a proposed strategic State plan to the General
15 Assembly, highlighting any legislative changes necessary to implement a final
16 strategic State plan. The proposed strategic State plan shall address ongoing
17 State and local hazard mitigation planning efforts.

18 (2) On or before July 1, 2022, after soliciting input from the relevant
19 subject matter committees of the General Assembly, the task force shall adopt
20 a final strategic State plan for health emergencies.

1 (e) The task force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal
2 assistance of the Agency of Administration.

3 (f)(1) The task force shall convene not less than four times to carry out its
4 charge pursuant to this section.

5 (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.