

**Summary of 2021 Legislation**  
**Relating to Boards and Commissions**

***I. Sunset Advisory Commission Overview***

[2018 Sp. Sess. Act No. 2](#) (boards and commissions) established the temporary Sunset Advisory Commission to make recommendations regarding the State's boards and commissions, including their necessity, their powers and duties, and the per diem compensation of their members. The Commission comprises six members: two Representatives, two Senators, and two gubernatorial appointees. The Commission is to complete its review of the State's boards and commissions by January 4, 2023.

The Commission began its work during Adjournment 2018 and made recommendations that resulted in [2019, Act No. 61](#) (H.16). The Commission met again during Adjournment 2019 and made the recommendations set forth in [2020, H.650 As Introduced](#).<sup>1</sup> Most recently, the Commission met during Adjournment 2020 and made the recommendations set forth in [2021, H.122 As Introduced](#), which was amended by the General Assembly before H.122 was signed into law as [2021, Act 52](#).

***II. Act 52 (2021): Section-by-Section Summary<sup>2</sup>***

[**Highlights** indicate a change from H.122 As Introduced/SAC recommendation]

**\*\*\* National Forest Lands Board \*\*\***

Sec. 1. [Deleted]. ***Sec. 1 of H.122 As Introduced repealed the National Forest Lands Board. Following witness testimony regarding the National Forest Lands Board, House Gov Ops voted to delete Sec. 1.***

Secs. 2-3. These sections make minor conforming language changes to statutory provisions relating to National Forest Lands.

**\*\*\* Amendments to Vermont Commission on Women \*\*\***

Sec. 4-6. These sections of H.122 move the Women's Commission to a new chapter within Title 3 and make changes to the Commission appointment requirements. ***In addition, Act 52 removes the prohibition on Commission funds being used for legislative***

<sup>1</sup> For reference, see [Summary of 2020, H.650 As Introduced](#).

<sup>2</sup> This legislative summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of legislation and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

*or administrative advocacy. This change was made following witness testimony in House Gov Ops that the prohibition is not required for other boards and commissions and it interferes with the Commission's ability to contract for services.*

**\* \* \* Repeal of Toxics Technical Advisory Board \* \* \***

Sec. 7. This section repeals the Toxics Technical Advisory Board in its entirety.

**\* \* \* Repeal of Champion Land Transaction Citizen Advisory Council \* \* \***

Sec. 8. This section repeals the Champion Land Transaction Citizen Advisory Council in its entirety.

**\* \* \* Repeal of Working Group on Conservation Easements \* \* \***

Sec. 9. This section repeals the Working Group on Conservation Easements in its entirety.

**\* \* \* Repeal and Transfer of Duties of Prekindergarten-16 Council \* \* \***

Secs. 10-11. These two sections repeal the Prekindergarten-16 Council and transfer a portion of the Prekindergarten-16 Council's duties to the Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Council established in Title 16.

**\* \* \* State Emergency Response Commission; Regional Committees \* \* \***

Secs. 12-17. *These sections make miscellaneous changes to the statutory provisions relating to the Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Public Safety, including:*

*(A) establishing regional emergency management committees to coordinate emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve their regions' ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters [Sec. 12]*

*(B) increasing the number of members on the State Emergency Response Commission from 15 to 17 members [Sec. 13]*

*(C) making miscellaneous clarifications in the description of the duties of the State Emergency Response Commission, which are generally housekeeping in nature [Sec. 14]*

*(D) making miscellaneous clarifications in the description of the duties of the local emergency planning committees and adding the requirement that where a local emergency planning committee represents more than one region of the State, the appointed representatives shall be geographically diverse [Sec. 15]*

*(E) repealing the statutory provisions establishing and governing the radiological emergency response plan fund and amending the statutory provisions governing the hazardous chemical and substance emergency response fund to specify a total annual grant amount that may be given to local emergency planning committees [Sec. 16]*

*(F) making conforming language changes to the Emergency Management Division duties and repealing provisions relating to a radiological emergency response plan [Sec. 17]*

**\*\*\* Effective Dates \*\*\***

Sec. 18. This section provides that Secs. 1–11 (misc. boards and commissions) take effect on passage [June 3, 2021], and Secs. 12–17 (emergency management commission/committees) take effect on July 1, 2021.

***III. List of Other Legislation Relating to Boards and Commissions***

1. Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits: [Act 7 \(2021\), Sec. 2](#) modified 16 V.S.A. § 2102(f) to limit per diems to 20 meetings per year.
2. Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission: this is a new commission established by [Act 37 \(2021\), Sec. 1](#).
3. State Ethics Commission: [Act 44 \(2021\), Sec. 2](#) extended the Commission's repeal (July 1, 2021) to July 1, 2022.
4. Vermont Pension Investment Commission: [Act 75 \(2021\), Sec. 1](#), made significant revisions to the Commission (formerly known as the Vermont Pension Investment Committee).
5. Joint Public Pension Oversight Committee: established by [Act 75 \(2021\), Sec. 11](#) [Legislative committee]
6. Health Equity Advisory Commission: this is a new commission established by [Act 22 \(2021\), Sec. 3](#).
7. Department of Corrections Monitoring Commission: this is a new commission established by [Act 56 \(2021\), Sec. 2](#).
8. Vermont Community Broadband Board: this is a new board established by [Act 71 \(2021\), Sec. 2](#).

9. Agricultural Innovation Board: this is a new board established by [Act 49 \(2021\), Sec. 1](#) which takes the place of the Pesticide Advisory Council (which is repealed by [Act 49 \(2021\), Sec. 2](#)). The Agricultural Innovation Board will also take over the functions of a “seed review committee” (which is repealed by [Act 49 \(2021\), Sec. 7](#)).
10. Advisory Council on Literacy: this is a new council established by [Act 28 \(2021\), Sec. 5](#).
11. Intercollegiate Sexual Harm Prevention Council: this is a new council established by [Act 68 \(2021\), Sec. 6](#).
12. Advisory Council on Wellness and Comprehensive Health: [Act 66 \(2021\), Sec. 9](#) makes changes to the qualifications of Council members, requires the Council to meet at least twice a year, and updates the Council’s duties.
13. Cannabis Control Board Advisory Committee: [Act 62 \(2021\), Sec. 2](#) amended the membership of the Advisory Committee.