

1 H.141

2 Introduced by Representatives Sibilgia of Dover and Small of Winooski

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Immigration; State Refugee Office; inventory and assessment

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the
7 State Refugee Office to issue a request for proposal to conduct an inventory
8 and assessment of all organizations in the State providing services to
9 Vermont's immigrant community. The inventory and assessment shall be
10 completed by November 15, 2024.

11 An act relating to an inventory and needs assessment of organizations
12 supporting Vermont's immigrant communities

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

14 Sec. 1. IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES; SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS;

15 STATE REFUGEE OFFICE; INVENTORY AND NEEDS

16 ASSESSMENT; REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

17 (a) Request for Proposal. On or before September 15, 2023, the State

18 Refugee Office shall issue a request for proposal (RFP) for a comprehensive

19 inventory and needs assessment of Vermont's immigrant community and the

20 organizations providing support to this community. For purposes of the RFP,

1 “Vermont’s immigrant community” includes refugees, asylum seekers,
2 asylees, humanitarian parolees, immigrants, individuals without a legal
3 immigrant status, and any permanent lawful residents who may have held one
4 of these statuses in the past.

5 (b) Inventory and Assessment. The State Refugee Office shall contract
6 with an independent third party to conduct the inventory and assessment
7 described in subsection (a) of this section. The inventory and assessment shall
8 be completed on or before November 15, 2024.

9 (c) Scope. The independent third party shall include the following in the
10 inventory and assessment described in subsection (a) of this section:

11 (1) a list of any organization in the State that is formally providing
12 social, housing, health, mental health, or legal support services to Vermont’s
13 immigrant community;

14 (2) a summary of the services provided by the organization to
15 Vermont’s immigrant community;

16 (3) the sources of funding supporting the organization;

17 (4) the relationship with and support provided by the State Refugee
18 Office and any refugee agency and the organization, including how the
19 organization’s needs, goals, and opportunities are communicated to the State
20 Refugee Office and a refugee agency;

21 (5) how referrals are made to the organization; and

1 (6) the governing structure of the organization.

2 (d) Reports. On or before January 15, 2024, the State Refugee Office shall
3 submit a status update on the RFP described in subsection (a) of this section to
4 the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health
5 and Welfare. On or before December 1, 2024, the State Refugee Office shall
6 submit a copy of the final inventory and assessment described in subsection (b)
7 of this section to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate
8 Committee on Health and Welfare.

9 (e) Funding. In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$25,000.00 in general
10 funds is appropriated to the State Refugee Office for the inventory and
11 assessment described in subsection (c) of this section.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.