

1 S.183

2 An act relating to reenvisioning the Agency of Human Services

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

4 Sec. 1. REENVISIONING THE AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES;

5 REPORT

6 (a) The Secretary of Human Services, in collaboration with the Deputy  
7 Secretary of Human Services and the commissioner of each department within  
8 the Agency of Human Services and in consultation with the Office of the  
9 Health Care Advocate; the Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate;  
10 Disability Rights Vermont; the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman;  
11 and other relevant stakeholders, shall consider options for reenvisioning the  
12 Agency of Human Services, such as restructuring the existing Agency of  
13 Human Services or dividing the existing Agency of Human Services into two  
14 or more separate agencies.

15 (b) The Secretary of Human Services and the other stakeholders identified  
16 in subsection (a) of this section shall evaluate the current structure of the  
17 Agency of Human Services, identify potential options for reenvisioning the  
18 Agency and engage in a cost-benefit analysis of each option, and develop one  
19 or more recommendations for implementation.

20 (c) On or before February 1, 2025, the Secretary shall provide the  
21 recommendations developed by the Secretary and stakeholders to the House

1 Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs, on Health Care,  
2 and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Government  
3 Operations and on Health and Welfare, including the following:

4 (1) the rationale for selecting the recommended option or options;

5 (2) the likely impact of the recommendations on the departments within  
6 the Agency and on the Vermonters served by those departments, including  
7 Vermonters who are members of historically marginalized communities;

8 (3) how the recommendations would center the needs of and lead to  
9 better outcomes for the individuals and families served by the Agency and its  
10 departments and make the Agency more accountable to the Vermonters whom  
11 it serves;

12 (4) how the recommendations could improve collaboration, integration,  
13 and alignment of the services currently provided by the Agency and its  
14 departments and how they could enhance coordination and communication  
15 among the departments;

16 (5) how the recommendations could address the workforce and  
17 personnel capacity challenges that the Agency and its departments encounter;

18 (6) how the recommendations could address the technology and facility  
19 challenges that the Agency and its departments encounter;

20 (7) a transition and implementation plan for the recommendations that is  
21 designed to minimize confusion and disruption for individuals and families

1 served by the Agency and its departments, as well as for Agency and  
2 departmental staff;

3 (8) a proposed organizational chart for any recommended  
4 reconfigurations; and

5 (9) the estimated costs or savings associated with the recommendations.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on passage.