

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs to which
3 was referred House Bill No. 125 entitled “An act relating to boards and
4 commissions” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by inserting a new section to be Sec. 2a
6 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 2a. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY; SUMMER

8 GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE; REPORT

9 (a) Creation. There is created the Summer Government Accountability
10 Committee to reexamine the principle of government accountability in the
11 Legislative Branch.

12 (b) Membership. The Summer Government Accountability Committee
13 shall be composed of the following members:

14 (1) four current members of the House of Representatives, not from the
15 same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

16 (2) four current members of the Senate, not from the same political
17 party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees.

18 (c) Powers and duties. The Summer Government Accountability
19 Committee shall consider the issue of accountability in the Legislative Branch,
20 including the following:

1 (1) ways to ensure that the Legislative Branch is accountable to the
2 people of Vermont by creating new processes and metrics by which to measure
3 accountability;

4 (2) ways to ensure equity in pay across commissions, boards, and joint
5 legislative committees based on the nature of the service and required skill
6 level; and

7 (3) codifying mechanisms for controlling and restraining the increasing
8 number of commissions, boards, and joint legislative committees.

9 (d) Assistance. For purposes of scheduling meetings and preparing
10 recommended legislation, the Summer Government Accountability Committee
11 shall have the assistance of the Office of Legislative Operations and the Office
12 of Legislative Counsel.

13 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Summer Government
14 Accountability Committee shall report to the House Committee on
15 Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on
16 Government Operations with any recommendations for legislative action.

17 (f) Meetings.

18 (1) A member of the House of Representatives designated by the
19 Speaker of the House shall call the first meeting of the Summer Government
20 Accountability Committee to occur on or before July 1, 2023.

1 (2) The Summer Government Accountability Committee shall select a
2 chair from among its members at the first meeting.

3 (3) A majority of the members of the Summer Government
4 Accountability Committee shall constitute a quorum.

5 (4) The Summer Government Accountability Committee shall cease to
6 exist on November 1, 2024.

7 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

8 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
9 Assembly, the members of the Summer Government Accountability
10 Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
11 expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than four meetings. These
12 payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

13 (Committee vote: _____)

14 _____

15 Representative _____

16 FOR THE COMMITTEE