<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
Sec. 1. THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF	Sec. 1c. THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF
PUBLIC EDUCATION; REPORTS	PUBLIC EDUCATION; REPORTS
(a) Creation. There is hereby created the	(a) Creation. There is hereby created the
Commission on the Future of Public Education in	Commission on the Future of Public Education in
Vermont. The right to education is fundamental for the	Vermont. The right to education is fundamental for the
success of Vermont's children in a rapidly changing	success of Vermont's children in a rapidly changing
society and global marketplace as well as for the State's	society and global marketplace as well as for the State's
own economic and social prosperity. The Commission	own economic and social prosperity. The Commission
shall study the provision of education in Vermont and	shall study the provision of education in Vermont and
make recommendations for a statewide vision for	make recommendations for a statewide vision for
Vermont's public education system to ensure that all	Vermont's public education system to ensure that all
students are afforded substantially equal educational	students are afforded substantially equal educational
opportunities in an efficient, sustainable, and stable	opportunities in an efficient, sustainable, and stable
education system. The Commission shall also make	education system. The Commission shall also make
recommendations for the strategic policy changes	recommendations for the strategic policy changes
necessary to make Vermont's educational vision a reality	necessary to make Vermont's educational vision a reality
for all Vermont students.	for all Vermont students.
(b) Membership. The Commission shall be	(b) Membership. The Commission shall be
composed of the following members and, to the extent	composed of the following members and, to the extent
possible, the members shall represent the State's	possible, the members shall represent the State's
geographic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity:	geographic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity:
(1) the Secretary of Education or designee;	(1) the Secretary of Education or designee;
(2) the Chair of the State Board of Education or	(2) the Chair of the State Board of Education or
designee;	designee;
(3) the Tax Commissioner or designee;	(3) the Tax Commissioner or designee;
(4) three current members of the House of	(4) one current member of the House of
Representatives, not all from the same political party,	Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;	

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
(5) two current members of the Senate, not from	(5) one current member of the Senate, appointed
the same political party, who shall be appointed by the	by the Committee on Committees;
Committee on Committees;	(6) one representative from the Vermont School
(6) two representatives from the Vermont School	Boards Association (VSBA), appointed by the VSBA
Boards Association (VSBA), appointed by the VSBA	Executive Director;
Executive Director;	(7) one representative from the Vermont
(7) two representatives from the Vermont	Principals' Association (VPA), appointed by the VPA
Principals' Association (VPA), selected by the VPA	Executive Director;
Executive Director;	(8) one superintendent, appointed by the Executive
(8) three superintendents, appointed by the	Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association;
Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents	
Association, two of whom shall be appointed as follows:	
(A) one superintendent of a supervisory union	
that operates a career and technical education center; and	
(B) one superintendent of a supervisory union	
composed of at least three separate school districts;	(9) one representative from the Vermont National
(9) two representatives from the Vermont National	Education Association (VTNEA), appointed by the
Education Association (VTNEA), appointed by the	VTNEA Executive Director;
VTNEA Executive Director;	(10) one representative from the Vermont
(10) one representative from the Vermont	Association of School Business Officials (VASBO) with
Association of School Business Officials (VASBO) with	experience in school construction projects, appointed by
experience in school construction projects, appointed by	the President of VASBO;
the President of VASBO;	(11) the Chair of the Census-Based Funding
(11) the Chair of the Census-Based Funding	Advisory Group, created under 2018 Acts and Resolves
Advisory Group, created under 2018 Acts and Resolves	<u>No. 173;</u>
No. 173 or designee;	(12) the Executive Director of the Vermont Rural
(12) the Executive Director of the Vermont Rural	Education Collaborative; and
Education Collaborative or designee; and	

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
(13) one representative from the Vermont	(13) one representative from the Vermont
Independent Schools Association (VISA), appointed by	Independent Schools Association (VISA), appointed by
the President of VISA.	the President of VISA.
(c) Steering group. On or before July 1, 2024, the	(c) Steering group. On or before July 1, 2025, the
Speaker of the House shall appoint two members of the	Speaker of the House shall appoint two members of the
Commission, the Committee on Committees shall	Commission, the Committee on Committees shall
appoint one member of the Commission, and the	appoint one member of the Commission, and the
Governor shall appoint two members of the Commission,	Governor shall appoint two members of the Commission
to serve as members of a steering group. No appointing	to serve as members of a steering group. No appointing
authority shall appoint two members affiliated with the	authority shall appoint two members affiliated with the
same organization. The steering group shall provide	same organization. The steering group shall provide
leadership to the Commission and shall work with a	leadership to the Commission and shall work with a
consultant to analyze the issues, challenges, and	consultant or consultants to analyze the issues,
opportunities facing Vermont's public education system,	challenges, and opportunities facing Vermont's public
as well as create a formal action plan to drive change and	education system, as well as develop and propose a work
innovation in the public education system. The steering	plan to formalize the process through which the
group may form one or more subcommittees of the	Commission shall seek to achieve its final
Commission to address key topics in greater depth.	recommendations. The formal work plan shall be
	approved by a majority of the Commission members.
	The steering group may form one or more subcommittees
	of the Commission to address key topics in greater depth.
(d) Collaboration and information review.	(d) Collaboration and information review.
(1) The Commission shall seek input from and	(1) The Commission shall seek input from and
collaborate with key stakeholders, as directed by the	collaborate with key stakeholders, as directed by the
steering group. At a minimum, the Commission shall	steering group. At a minimum, the Commission shall
<u>consult with:</u>	<u>consult with:</u>
(A) the Department of Mental Health;	(A) the Department of Mental Health;
(B) the Department of Labor;	(B) the Department of Labor;

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
(C) the President of the University of Vermont	(C) the President of the University of Vermont
or designee;	or designee;
(D) the Chancellor of the Vermont State	(D) the Chancellor of the Vermont State
Colleges Corporation or designee;	Colleges Corporation or designee;
(E) a representative from the Prekindergarten	(E) a representative from the Prekindergarten
Education Implementation Committee;	Education Implementation Committee;
(F) the Office of Racial Equity;	(F) the Office of Racial Equity;
(G) a representative with expertise in the	(G) a representative with expertise in the
Community Schools model in Vermont; and	Community Schools model in Vermont; and
(H) the Vermont Youth Council.	(H) the Vermont Youth Council.
(2) The Commission shall also review and take	(2) The Commission shall also review and take
into consideration existing educational laws and policy,	into consideration existing educational laws and policy,
including legislative reports the Commission deems	including legislative reports the Commission deems
relevant to its work and, at a minimum, 2015 Acts and	relevant to its work and, at a minimum, 2015 Acts and
Resolves No. 46, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173, 2022	Resolves No. 46, 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173, 2022
Acts and Resolves No. 127, and 2023 Acts and Resolves	Acts and Resolves No. 127, and 2023 Acts and Resolves
<u>No. 76.</u>	<u>No. 76.</u>
(e) Duties of the Commission. The Commission shall	(e) Duties of the Commission. The Commission shall
study Vermont's public education system and make	study Vermont's public education system and make
recommendations to ensure all students are afforded	recommendations to ensure all students are afforded
quality educational opportunities in an efficient,	quality educational opportunities in an efficient,
sustainable, and equitable education system that will	sustainable, and equitable education system that will
enable students to achieve the highest academic	enable students to achieve the highest academic
outcomes. The result of the Commission's work shall be	outcomes. The result of the Commission's work shall be
a recommendation for a statewide vision for Vermont's	a recommendation for a statewide vision for Vermont's
public education system, with recommendations for the	public education system, with recommendations for the
policy changes necessary to make Vermont's educational	policy changes necessary to make Vermont's educational
vision a reality. In creating and making its	vision a reality. In creating and making its

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
recommendations, the Commission shall engage in the	recommendations, the Commission shall engage in the
following:	following:
(1) Public engagement. The Commission shall	(1) Public engagement. The Commission shall
conduct not fewer than 10 public meetings to inform the	conduct not fewer than 14 public meetings to inform the
work required under this section. At least half of the	work required under this section. At least one meeting of
public meetings shall be held in a different geographic	the Commission as a whole or a subcommittee of the
region of the State. The Commission shall publish a	Commission shall be held in each county. The
draft of its final recommendations on or before October	Commission shall publish a draft of its final
1, 2025, solicit public feedback, and incorporate such	recommendations on or before October 1, 2026, solicit
feedback into its final recommendations. When	public feedback, and incorporate such feedback into its
submitting its final recommendations to the General	final recommendations. When submitting its final
Assembly, the Commission shall include all public	recommendations to the General Assembly, the
feedback received as an addendum to its final report.	Commission shall include all public feedback received as
The public feedback process shall include:	an addendum to its final report. The public feedback
	process shall include:
(A) a minimum 30-day public comment period,	(A) a minimum 30-day public comment period,
during which time the Commission shall accept written	during which time the Commission shall accept written
comments from the public and stakeholders; and	comments from the public and stakeholders; and
(B) a public outreach plan that maximizes	(B) a public outreach plan that maximizes
public engagement and includes notice of the availability	public engagement and includes notice of the availability
of language assistance services when requested.	of language assistance services when requested.
(2) Policy considerations. In developing its	(2) Policy considerations. In developing its
recommendations, the Commission shall consider and	recommendations, the Commission shall consider and
prioritize the following topics:	prioritize the following topics:
(A) Governance, resources, and administration.	(A) Governance, resources, and administration.
The Commission shall study and make recommendations	The Commission shall study and make recommendations
regarding education governance at the State level,	regarding education governance at the State level,
including the role of the Agency of Education in the	including the role of the Agency of Education in the
provision of services and support for the education	provision of services and support for the education

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
system. Recommendations under this subdivision (A)	system. Recommendations under this subdivision (A)
shall include, at a minimum, the following:	shall include, at a minimum, the following:
(i) whether changes need to be made to the	(i) whether changes need to be made to the
structure of the Agency of Education, including whether	structure of the Agency of Education, including whether
it better serves the recommended education vision of the	it better serves the recommended education vision of the
State as an agency or a department;	State as an agency or a department;
(ii) what are the staffing needs of the	(ii) what are the staffing needs of the
Agency of Education;	Agency of Education;
(iii) whether changes need to be made to the	(iii) whether changes need to be made to the
composition, role, and function of the State Board of	composition, role, and function of the State Board of
Education to better serve the recommended education	Education to better serve the recommended education
vision of the State;	vision of the State;
(iv) what roles, functions, or decisions	(iv) what roles, functions, or decisions
should be a function of local control and what roles,	should be a function of local control and what roles,
functions, or decisions should be a function of control at	functions, or decisions should be a function of control at
the State level; and	the State level; and
(v) the effective integration of career and	(v) the effective integration of career and
technical education in the recommended education vision	technical education in the recommended education vision
of the State.	of the State.
(B) Physical size and footprint of the system.	(B) Physical size and footprint of the education
The Commission shall study and make recommendations	system. The Commission shall study and make
regarding how the unique geographical and	recommendations regarding how the unique geographical
socioeconomic needs of different communities should	and socioeconomic needs of different communities
factor into the provision of education in Vermont, taking	should factor into the provision of education in Vermont,
into account and building upon the recommendations of	taking into account and building upon the
the State Aid to School Construction Working Group.	recommendations of the State Aid to School
Recommendations under this subdivision (B) shall	Construction Working Group. Recommendations under
include, at a minimum, the following:	this subdivision (B) shall include, at a minimum, the
	following:

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
(i) an analysis of the current number and location of school buildings, school districts, and supervisory unions and whether additional consolidation is needed to achieve Vermont's vision for education, provided that if there is a recommendation for any amount of consolidation, the recommendation shall include a recommended implementation plan; (ii) an analysis of the capacity and ability to staff all public schools with a qualified workforce, driven by data on class-size recommendations;	(i) an analysis of the current number and location of school buildings, school districts, and supervisory unions and whether additional consolidation is needed to achieve Vermont's vision for education, provided that if there is a recommendation for any amount of consolidation, the recommendation shall include a recommended implementation plan; (ii) an analysis of the capacity and ability to staff all public schools with a qualified workforce, driven by data on class-size recommendations;
(iii) an analysis of the current town tuition program and whether, and if so, what, changes are	(iii) analysis of whether, and if so, how, collaboration with Vermont's postsecondary schools may support the development and retention of a qualified educator workforce; (iv) an analysis of the current town tuition program and whether, and if so, what, changes are
necessary to meet Vermont's vision for education, including the legal and financial impact of funding independent schools and other private institutions, including consideration of the following: (I) the role designation, under 16 V.S.A. § 827, should play in the delivery of public education;	necessary to meet Vermont's vision for education, including the legal and financial impact of funding independent schools and other private institutions, including consideration of the following: (I) the role designation, under 16 V.S.A. § 827, should play in the delivery of public education;
and (II) the financial impact to the Education Fund of public dollars being used in schools located outside Vermont; and (iv) an analysis of the current use of private therapeutic schools in the provision of special education services and whether, and if so, what, changes are therapeutic schools in the services are	<u>and</u> <u>(II) the financial impact to the Education</u> <u>Fund of public dollars being used in schools located</u> <u>outside Vermont; and</u> <u>(v) an analysis of the current use of private</u> <u>therapeutic schools in the provision of special education</u> <u>services and whether, and if so, what, changes are</u>

7

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
necessary to meet Vermont's special education needs,	necessary to meet Vermont's special education needs,
including the legal and financial impact of funding	including the legal and financial impact of funding
private therapeutic schools.	private therapeutic schools.
(C) The role of public schools. The	(C) The role of public schools. The
Commission shall study and make recommendations	Commission shall study and make recommendations
regarding the role public schools should play in both the	regarding the role public schools should play in both the
provision of education and the social and emotional well-	provision of education and the social and emotional well-
being of students. Recommendations under this	being of students. Recommendations under this
subdivision (C) shall include, at a minimum, the	subdivision (C) shall include, at a minimum, the
following:	following:
(i) how public education in Vermont should	(i) how public education in Vermont should
be delivered;	be delivered;
(ii) whether Vermont's vision for public	(ii) whether Vermont's vision for public
education shall include the provision of wraparound	education shall include the provision of wraparound
supports and collocation of services; and	supports and collocation of services;
	(iii) whether, and if so, how, collaboration
	with Vermont's postsecondary schools may support and
(iii) what the consequences are for the	strengthen the delivery of public education; and
Commission's recommendations regarding the role of	(iv) what the consequences are for the
public schools and other service providers, including	Commission's recommendations regarding the role of
what the role of public schools means for staffing,	public schools and other service providers, including
funding, and any other affected system, with the goal of	what the role of public schools means for staffing,
most efficiently utilizing State funds and services and	funding, and any other affected system, with the goal of
maximizing federal funding.	most efficiently utilizing State funds and services and
(D) Education fund. The Commission shall	maximizing federal funding.
explore the efficacy and potential equity gains of changes	(D) Education fund. The Commission shall
to the education funding system, including weighted	explore the efficacy and potential equity gains of changes
educational opportunity payments as a method to fund	to the education funding system, including weighted
public education. The Commission's recommendations	educational opportunity payments as a method to fund

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
shall be intended to result in an education funding system	public education. The Commission's recommendations
designed to afford substantially equal access to a quality	shall be intended to result in an education funding system
basic education for all Vermont students in accordance	designed to afford substantially equal access to a quality
with State v. Brigham, 166 Vt. 246 (1997).	basic education for all Vermont students in accordance
Recommendations under this subdivision (D) shall	with State v. Brigham, 166 Vt. 246 (1997).
include, at a minimum, the following:	Recommendations under this subdivision (D) shall
(i) allowable uses for the Education Fund	include, at a minimum, the following:
that shall ensure sustainable and equitable use of State	(i) allowable uses for the Education Fund
<u>funds;</u>	that shall ensure sustainable and equitable use of State
(ii) the method for setting tax rates to sustain	<u>funds;</u>
allowable uses of the Education Fund; and	(ii) the method for setting tax rates to sustain
(iii) implementation details for any	allowable uses of the Education Fund; and
recommended changes to the education funding system.	(iii) implementation details for any
(E) Additional considerations. The	recommended changes to the education funding system.
Commission may consider any other topic, factor, or	(E) Additional considerations. The
issue that it deems relevant to its work and	Commission may consider any other topic, factor, or
recommendations.	issue that it deems relevant to its work and
(f) Reports and proposed legislation. The	recommendations.
Commission shall prepare and submit to the General	(f) Reports and proposed legislation. The
Assembly the following:	Commission shall prepare and submit to the General
(1) a formal, written work plan, which shall	Assembly the following:
include a communication plan to maximize public	(1) a formal, written work plan, which shall
engagement, on or before September 15, 2024;	include a communication plan to maximize public
(2) a written report containing its preliminary	engagement, on or before September 15, 2025;
findings and recommendations, including short-term cost	(2) a written report containing its preliminary
containment considerations for the 2025 legislative	findings and recommendations, including short-term cost
session, on or before December 15, 2024;	containment considerations for the 2026 legislative
(3) a written report containing its final findings	session, on or before December 15, 2025;
and recommendations for a statewide vision for	

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
Vermont's public education system and the policy	(3) a written report containing its final findings
changes necessary to make that educational vision a	and recommendations for a statewide vision for
reality on or before December 1, 2025; and	Vermont's public education system and the policy
(4) proposed legislative language to advance any	changes necessary to make that educational vision a
recommendations for the education funding system.	reality on or before December 1, 2026; and
(g) Assistance. The Agency of Education shall	(4) proposed legislative language to advance any
contract with an independent consultant to provide	recommendations for the education funding system on or
technical and legal assistance to the Commission for the	before December 15, 2026.
work required under this section. For the purposes of	(g) Assistance. The Agency of Education shall
scheduling meetings and providing administrative	<u>contract with one or more independent consultants or</u>
assistance, the Commission shall have the assistance of	facilitators to provide technical and legal assistance to
the Agency of Education. The Agency shall also provide	the Commission for the work required under this section.
the educational and financial data necessary to facilitate	For the purposes of scheduling meetings and providing
the work of the Commission. School boards shall	administrative assistance, the Commission shall have the
comply with requests from the Agency to assist in data	assistance of the Agency of Education. The Agency
collections.	shall also provide the educational and financial data
	necessary to facilitate the work of the Commission.
(h) Meetings.	School districts shall comply with requests from the
(1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first	Agency to assist in data collections.
meeting of the Commission to occur on or before July	(h) Meetings.
<u>15, 2024.</u>	(1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first
(2) The Speaker of the House and the President	meeting of the Commission to occur on or before July
Pro Tempore shall jointly select a Commission chair.	<u>15, 2025.</u>
(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute	(2) The Speaker of the House and the President
<u>a quorum.</u>	Pro Tempore shall jointly select a Commission chair.
(4) Meetings shall be conducted in accordance	(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute
with Vermont's Open Meeting Law pursuant to 1 V.S.A.	<u>a quorum.</u>
<u>chapter 5, subchapter 2.</u>	

<u>H.887 APBH</u>	H.887 Senate Proposal of Amendment
 (5) The Commission shall cease to exist on December 31, 2025. (i) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 30 meetings, including subcommittee meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Education. 	 (4) Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2. (5) The Commission shall cease to exist on December 31, 2026. (i) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 30 meetings, including subcommittee meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Education.