

**Summary of H.125 (as amended)**

Introductory comments: This bill to serve as a vehicle for the Sunset Advisory Commission's 2023 recommendations. As currently written, this bill will either repeal or prospective repeal 11 different boards and commissions and will amend one commission's provisions. The bill sections are organized by title order. 120 pages of the 140 pertain to the repeal of two board, the Board of Health and the Natural Gas and Oil Resources Board

\* \* \* Government Accountability Committee \* \* \*

Sec. 1. REPEAL OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Sec. 2. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

- p.1
- "It is the intent of the General Assembly that the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations should reexamine the principle of government accountability with a focus on how evidence is used to inform policy, how information is publicly conveyed, and the Committees should propose statutory amendments as needed to accomplish these goals."
- Rep. Jessica Brumsted provided written testimony given to the Sunset Advisory Commission on 11/16/22: [Government Accountability Committee Written Testimony](#)

Sec. 2a. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY; SUMMER GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE; REPORT

- p.1
- Creates the Summer Government Accountability Committee, consisting of four members of the House and four members of the Senate. The Committee will consider the issue of accountability in the Legislative Branch, including: (1) ways to ensure that the Legislative Branch is accountable to the people of Vermont by creating new processes and metrics by which to measure accountability; (2) ways to ensure equity in pay across commissions, boards, and joint legislative committees based on the nature of the service and required skill level; and (3) codifying mechanisms for controlling and restraining the increasing number of commissions, boards, and joint legislative committees. The Committee will report on these items by January 15, 2024, and will sunset on November 1, 2024.

\* \* \* State Boards and Commissions Registry \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 116a is amended to read:

§ 116a. STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REGISTRY

- p.4
- Revision from Director Tanya Marshall, State Archivist & Chief Records Officer which reduces the number of items to be tracked by the State Archivist.
- Director Tanya Marshall provided written testimony given to the Sunset Advisory Commission on 11/16/22: [Written Testimony](#)

\*\*\* Vermont Pension Investment Commission \*\*\*

Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 522 is amended to read:

§ 522. VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION

- p.5
- Amendments made to make Commission more independent from the Treasurer.
- Tom Golonka, Chair of the Vermont Pension Investment Committee, submitted written testimony submitted to the Sunset Advisory Board on 9/21/22: [Vermont Pension Investment Commission Completed Questionnaire](#)

\*\*\* Repeal of Agricultural Finance Program Advisory Panel \*\*\*

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 213 is amended to read:

- p.6
- Vermont Economic Development Authority submitted written testimony submitted to the Sunset Advisory Board on 8/22/22: [Submitted Questionnaire](#)

\*\*\* Repeals of Coalition for Healthy Activity, Motivation, and Prevention Programs (CHAMPPS) and Fit and Healthy Advisory Council \*\*\*

Sec. 6. REPEAL OF COALITION FOR HEALTHY ACTIVITY, MOTIVATION, AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS (CHAMPPS)/FIT AND HEALTHY ADVISORY COUNCIL

- p. 7
- No questionnaire; David Englander, Senior Policy & Legal Advisor, Department of Health, testified on this topic on 10/13/22.

\*\*\* Repeal of Birth Information Network Advisory Committee \*\*\*

Sec. 7. 18 V.S.A. chapter 20 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 20. BIRTH INFORMATION NETWORK

- p. 7
- No questionnaire; David Englander, Senior Policy & Legal Advisor, Department of Health, testified on this topic on 10/13/22.

\*\*\* Repeal of Board of Health; Conforming Revisions \*\*\*

Sec.s 8 – 131, ~75 pages. Replaces references to the Board with either the Commissioner or Department of Health.

- p. 8
- Transfer of rulemaking authority is in Sec. 131, pg. 81.
- Sec. 117 (amending 18 V.S.A. § 4234) shall take effect on July 2, 2023 because there is pending amendment language that will become effective on July 1, 2023.
- David Englander, Senior Policy and Legal Advisor, Department of Health provided written testimony to the Sunset Advisory Commission on 10/6/22: [Board of Health Completed Questionnaire](#)

- Note: In Sec. 101, 18 V.S.A. § 4201, was amended by striking out subsection (45) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (45) to read as follows: (45) “Benchmark unlawful dosage” means the maximum recommended therapeutic dose, or maximum daily dose, as determined by the Department by rule.

\*\*\* Prospective Repeal of Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel \*\*\*

Sec. 132. PROSPECTIVE REPEAL OF NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL

- p.84
- To be repealed on January 1, 2030.
- June Tierney, Commissioner, Department of Public Service, provided written testimony to the Sunset Advisory Commission on 9/21/2022: [Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Completed Questionnaire](#)

\*\*\* Repeal of Vermont Prescription Drug Advisory Council \*\*\*

Sec. 133. REPEAL OF VERMONT PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADVISORY COUNCIL

- p.84
- No questionnaire was submitted.

\*\*\* Vermont Employment Security Board \*\*\*

Sec. 134. 21 V.S.A. § 1302 is amended

- Adjusted membership.
- p.84
- No questionnaire; inserted after Sunset Advisory Commission discussion on 11/16/22.

\*\*\* Repeal of Natural Gas and Oil Resources Board and Statutory Framework \*\*\*

Sec. 135. 29 V.S.A. chapter 14

- p.85
- Only one Sec., but runs 44 pages. pp.83-127
- Repeals all but prohibition language for hydraulic fracturing in the State in §571, p.127.
- Kept in all the struck-through language to emphasize to legislators the potential significance of what is being removed and, in which case, to spark review and replacement of these sections.
- ANR’s written testimony submitted to the Sunset Advisory Board on 9/21/22: [Vermont Agency of Natural Resources: Natural Gas and Oil Resources Board Completed Questionnaire](#)

\*\*\* Repeal of Review Board on Retail Sales \*\*\*

Sec. 136. REPEAL OF REVIEW BOARD ON RETAIL SALES

- p.130

- T. J. Poor, Director of Regulated Utility Planning Division, Department of Public Service, provided written testimony to the Sunset Advisory Commission on 10/6/22: [Review Board on Retail Sales Completed Questionnaire](#)

\*\*\* Prospective Repeal of Clean Energy Development Board \*\*\*

Sec. 137. 30 V.S.A. § 8015 is amended to read:

§ 8015. VERMONT CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FUND

- p.130
- Will not become effective until June 30, 2025, sunset date for this board.
- T. J. Poor, Director of Regulated Utility Planning Division, Department of Public Service, provided written testimony to the Sunset Advisory Commission on 10/6/22: [Clean Energy Development Board Completed Questionnaire](#)

\*\*\* Repeal of Vermont Telecommunications Authority \*\*\*

Sec. 138. REPEAL OF VERMONT TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

- p.139
- Clay Purvis, Director for Telecommunications and Connectivity at the Department of Public Service, provided written testimony to the Sunset Advisory Commission on 10/6/22: [VT Telecommunications Authority Completed Questionnaire](#)

\*\*\* Repeal and Transfer of Duties of Private Activity Bond Advisory Committee \*\*\*

Sec. 139. 32 V.S.A. § 994 is amended to read:

- p.139
- Authority transferred to the Treasurer (in coordination with the Secretary of Administration, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, and any bond issuing authority of the State or instrumentality of the State that is eligible to issue private activity bonds)
- Justin St. James, General Counsel, Treasurer’s Office, provided written testimony to the Sunset Advisory Commission on 9/21/22: [Private Activity Bond Advisory Committee Completed Questionnaire](#)

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

Sec. 140. EFFECTIVE DATES

- p.142
- This act shall take effect on passage, *except*:
  - o Sec. 117, amending 18 V.S.A. § 4234, shall take effect on July 2, 2023 because there is pending amendment language that will become effective on July 1, 2023; and
  - o Sec. 137, amending 30 V.S.A. § 8015, shall take effect on June 30, 2027, the sunset date for this board.