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H.170

Introduced by Representatives Headrick of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston,  
Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Logan of  
Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Rachelson of  
Burlington, and Tomlinson of Winooski

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; University of Vermont; enrollment cap; housing

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to (1) limit the  
enrollment of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College when  
the vacancy rate of the City of Burlington is below five percent; (2) require  
University housing to meet municipal housing codes and rental housing health  
and safety standards; and (3) establish the UVM Housing Task Force to  
monitor compliance.

An act relating to University of Vermont and State Agricultural College  
residential living space

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

2 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2286 is added to read:

3 § 2286. ENROLLMENT CAP

4 (a) The City of Burlington, in collaboration with the University of Vermont  
5 and State Agricultural College, shall contract for the publication of an annual  
6 citywide housing vacancy rate in accordance with U.S. generally accepted  
7 auditing standards. The rate shall be published annually on or before July 31.

8 (b) Whenever the housing vacancy rate for the City of Burlington is less  
9 than five percent as published by subsection (a) of this section, the University  
10 of Vermont and State Agricultural College shall limit the number of students  
11 enrolled in the school to its enrollment number as of the end of the fall  
12 semester concluding immediately after the publication of the housing vacancy  
13 rate.

14 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2287 is added to read:

15 § 2287. RESIDENTIAL HOUSING REQUIREMENTS; ANNUAL

16 REPORT; UVM HOUSING TASK FORCE

17 (a) The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College shall ensure  
18 that all university-owned or affiliated housing complies with:

19 (1) minimal standards for dwellings adopted by ordinance under 24  
20 V.S.A. chapter 123 (municipal housing codes) by the municipality where the  
21 housing is located; and

1           (2) 20 V.S.A. chapter 172 (rental housing health and safety).

2           (b)(1) The standards identified in subsection (a) of this section shall apply  
3 to all residential buildings in use on July 1, 2025 as well as all new  
4 construction and existing buildings repurposed for housing on or after July 1,  
5 2025.

6           (2) The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College shall  
7 make reasonable efforts to ensure all housing complies with this section as  
8 soon as practicable.

9           (3) Current students living in on-campus housing not meeting the  
10 requirements of subsection (a) of this section shall be offered housing that  
11 meets the requirements of this section prior to the same housing being offered  
12 to new students.

13           (4) Space designed to house two students that does not meet the  
14 requirements of this section shall be offered to students with documented  
15 medical accommodation needs for a single room.

16           (c)(1) On or before January 15 of each year, the University of Vermont and  
17 State Agricultural College shall submit to the General Assembly an annual  
18 housing impact report.

19           (2) The report shall include:

20                   (A) a summary of compliance with the requirements of subsections  
21 (a) and (b) of this section, including:

1                   (i) a detailed listing of housing not in compliance with this section  
2                   with the number and types of compliance violations; and

3                   (ii) the number of housing units and the number of students  
4                   affected;

5                   (B) an analysis of the on-campus and affiliated housing capacity of  
6                   the University;

7                   (C) student enrollment numbers, including the number of students  
8                   residing in off-campus housing by municipality;

9                   (D) any current plans for future housing developments; and

10                  (E) steps taken to bring housing into compliance with the  
11                  requirements of this section.

12                  (3) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports)  
13                  shall not apply to the report required under this subsection.

14                  (d)(1) There is established the UVM Housing Task Force to monitor  
15                  compliance with this section. The Task Force shall be overseen by the State  
16                  Auditor and shall be composed of the following members:

17                   (A) the State Auditor or designee;

18                   (B) a current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be  
19                   appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20                   (C) a current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the  
21                   Committee on Committees;

1           (D) the Mayor of Burlington or designee;

2           (E) two members of the Board of Trustees of the University of  
3 Vermont and State Agricultural College, appointed by the Chair of the Board  
4 of Trustees, one of whom shall be a student; and

5           (F) one Burlington city councilor appointed by the City Council  
6 President.

7           (2) The State Auditor shall serve as Chair of the Task Force and shall  
8 ensure the Task Force meets at least biannually.

9           (3) The Task Force shall:

10           (A) review activities of, and recommend actions for, the City of  
11 Burlington and the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College to  
12 relieve housing pressures in the City of Burlington associated with the  
13 enrollment of students;

14           (B) review and recommend amendments to agreements between the  
15 City and the University regarding housing; and

16           (C) recommend potential legislative changes to ensure compliance  
17 with this section.

18           (4) The Task Force shall report annually on or before January 31 of each  
19 year to the General Assembly regarding activities undertaken by the Task  
20 Force with any recommendations for legislative action. The provisions of 2

1 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report  
2 required under this subsection.

3 (5) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
4 Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem  
5 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23.  
6 These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General  
7 Assembly.

8 (e) Housing agreements between the City of Burlington and the University  
9 of Vermont and State Agricultural College shall include enforceable  
10 commitments to:

11 (1) build new housing that complies with municipal ordinances around  
12 minimal standards for dwellings; and

13 (2) align housing development with the City of Burlington's broader  
14 housing strategies.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on passage.