

H.708

Introduced by Representative Kimbell of Woodstock

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: General provisions; flag, insignia, seal, etc.; State Flag; task force

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a task force to recommend a new State Flag.

An act relating to the creation of the State Flag Task Force

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The State Flag has evolved in design over the centuries since its enactment into legislation in 1803. Codified at 1 V.S.A. § 495 as “blue with the Coat of Arms of the State thereon,” the General Assembly approved Vermont’s current design more than a century ago, in 1923.

(2) The Coat of Arms still retains its original design, enacted into legislation in 1862 and codified at 1 V.S.A. § 491(1): “Green, a landscape occupying half of the shield; on the right and left, in the background, high mountains, blue; the sky, yellow. From near the base and reaching nearly to the top of the shield, arises a pine tree of the natural color and between three

1 erect sheaves, yellow, placed diagonally on the right side and a red cow
2 standing on the left side of the field.”

3 (b) Purpose. The purpose of this act is to facilitate, through the work of a
4 task force and public input, the creation of a new State Flag that is distinctive
5 and reflects the shared vision of Vermont’s current and future identity.

6 Sec. 2. STATE FLAG; TASK FORCE; REPORT

7 (a) Creation. There is created the State Flag Task Force to recommend a
8 new State Flag.

9 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following
10 members:

11 (1) the Secretary of State or designee;

12 (2) the State Archivist or designee;

13 (3) the State Curator or designee;

14 (4) the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services or designee;

15 (5) the State Historic Preservation Officer or designee;

16 (6) the Executive Director of Racial Equity or designee;

17 (7) the Chair of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs
18 or designee;

19 (8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society or
20 designee;

1 (9) the Executive Director of the Vermont Arts Council or designee; and

2 (10) the Executive Director of Vermont Humanities or designee.

3 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall recommend to the General
4 Assembly a proposal for a new State Flag. As part of its work, the Task Force
5 shall solicit proposals from the public for a new State Flag.

6 (d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,
7 and legal assistance of the Office of the Secretary of State.

8 (e) Report. On or before March 31, 2027, the Task Force shall submit a
9 preliminary progress report to the House Committee on Government
10 Operations and Military Affairs and Senate Committee on Government
11 Operations; and, on or before December 1, 2027, the Task Force shall submit
12 to the Committees its findings and any recommendations for legislative action,
13 including whether to seek voter approval of the final design in the November
14 2028 general election.

15 (f) Meetings.

16 (1) The Secretary of State shall call the first meeting of the Task Force
17 to occur on or before September 15, 2026.

18 (2) The Task Force shall select a chair from among its members at the
19 first meeting.

20 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

21 (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on December 31, 2027.

1 (g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Task Force who
2 are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be
3 entitled to compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A.
4 § 1010 for not more than eight meetings.

5 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.