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H.907

An act relating to legislative review of reporting requirements

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

* * * Repeal of Reporting Requirements * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 2313 is amended to read:

§ 2313. PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

(a) The Chief Performance Officer shall assist agencies as necessary in developing performance measures for contracts and grants.

~~(b) Annually, on or before July 30 and as part of any other report requirement to the General Assembly set forth in this subchapter, the Chief Performance Officer shall report to the General Assembly on the progress by rate or percent of how many State contracts and grants have performance accountability requirements and the rate or percent of contractors' and grantees' compliance with those requirements. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 331 is amended to read:

§ 331. TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

* * *

(c)(1) The Commissioner may authorize the continued employment of a person in a temporary capacity for more than 1,280 hours in any one calendar year if the Commissioner determines, in writing, that a bona fide emergency exists for the appointing authority that requires such continued employment.

* * *

1 (b) Included among the powers of the Council in connection with the
2 enforcement of this chapter are the powers to require reports from any person
3 subject to this chapter; to adopt, rescind, modify, and amend all proper and
4 necessary rules and orders to administer this chapter, which rules and orders
5 shall be adopted by publication in the manner prescribed by the Council and
6 shall have the force and effect of law when not inconsistent with existing laws;
7 to administer oaths, subpoena witnesses, take depositions, and certify to
8 official acts; to require any dealer to keep such true and accurate records and to
9 make such reports covering purchases, sales, and receipts of dairy products and
10 related matters as the Council deems reasonably necessary for effective
11 administration, which records shall be open to inspection by the Secretary of
12 Agriculture, Food and Markets at any reasonable time and as often as may be
13 necessary, but information thus obtained shall not be published or be open to
14 public inspection in any manner revealing any individual dealer's identity,
15 except as required in proceedings to enforce compliance; and to keep accurate
16 books, records, and accounts of all of its dealings; ~~and to make annually a full~~
17 ~~report of its doings to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency,~~
18 ~~and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Governor,~~
19 ~~which shall show the amount of money received and the expenditures thereof.~~
20 ~~The report shall be submitted on or before January 15.~~ The Vermont Agency
21 of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall perform the administrative work of the

1 Council as directed by the Council. The Council shall reimburse the Agency
2 of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the cost of services performed by the
3 Agency.

4 * * *

5 Sec. 4. 6 V.S.A. § 4810 is amended to read:

6 § 4810. AUTHORITY; COOPERATION; COORDINATION

7 * * *

8 (d) Cooperation and coordination. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and
9 Markets shall coordinate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in
10 implementing and enforcing programs, plans, and practices developed for
11 reducing and eliminating agricultural nonpoint source pollutants and
12 discharges from farms. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall
13 cooperate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in the implementation of the
14 federal Clean Water Act for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
15 (CAFOs). The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall implement
16 the State's comprehensive, complementary nonpoint source program. The
17 Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets and the Secretary of Natural
18 Resources shall coordinate regarding program administration; grant
19 negotiation; grant sharing; implementation of the antidegradation policy
20 including to new sources of agricultural nonpoint source pollutants, and
21 watershed planning activities to comply with Pub. L. No. 92-500. In

1 accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 1259(i), the Secretary of Natural Resources, in
2 consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary
3 of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall issue a document that sets forth the
4 respective roles and responsibilities of the Agency of Natural Resources in
5 implementing the federal Clean Water Act on farms and the Agency of
6 Agriculture, Food and Markets' roles and responsibilities in implementing the
7 State's complementary nonpoint source program on farms. The document
8 shall be consistent with and equivalent with the federal National Pollutant
9 Discharge Elimination System permit regulations for discharges from CAFOs.
10 The document will replace the memorandum of understanding between the
11 agencies. The allocation of duties under this chapter between the Secretary of
12 Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall be
13 consistent with the Secretary's duties, established under the provisions of
14 10 V.S.A. § 1258(b), to comply with Pub. L. No. 92-500. The Secretary of
15 Natural Resources shall be the State lead person in applying for federal funds
16 under Pub. L. No. 92-500 but shall consult with the Secretary of Agriculture,
17 Food and Markets during the process. The agricultural nonpoint source
18 program may compete with other programs for competitive watershed projects
19 funded from federal funds. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets
20 shall be represented in reviewing these projects for funding. Actions by the
21 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under this chapter concerning

1 agricultural nonpoint source pollution shall be consistent with the water quality
2 standards and water pollution control requirements of 10 V.S.A. chapter 47
3 and the federal Clean Water Act as amended. In addition, the Secretary of
4 Agriculture, Food and Markets shall coordinate with the Secretary of Natural
5 Resources in implementing and enforcing programs, plans, and practices
6 developed for the proper management of composting facilities when those
7 facilities are located on a farm. ~~The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and~~
8 ~~Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall each develop three~~
9 ~~separate measures of the performance of the agencies under the federal Clean~~
10 ~~Water Act and State nonpoint source regulatory authority, and annually on or~~
11 ~~before January 15, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the~~
12 ~~Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit separate reports to the Senate~~
13 ~~Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Agriculture, Food~~
14 ~~Resiliency, and Forestry, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and~~
15 ~~Energy, and the House Committee on Environment regarding the success of~~
16 ~~each agency in meeting its selected performance measures.~~

17 Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 1978 is amended to read:

18 § 1978. RULES

19 * * *

20 (e)(1) The Secretary shall periodically review and, if necessary, revise the
21 rules adopted under this chapter to ensure that the technical standards remain

1 current with the known and proven technologies regarding potable water
2 supplies and wastewater systems.

3 * * *

4 ~~(3) The Technical Advisory Committee shall provide annual reports,~~
5 ~~starting January 15, 2003, to the Chairs of the House Committee on~~
6 ~~Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions. The~~
7 ~~reports shall include information on the following topics: the implementation~~
8 ~~of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter; the number and type of~~
9 ~~alternative or innovative systems approved for general use, approved for use as~~
10 ~~a pilot project, and approved for experimental use; the functional status of~~
11 ~~alternative or innovative systems approved for use as a pilot project or~~
12 ~~approved for experimental use; the number of permit applications received~~
13 ~~during the preceding calendar year; the number of permits issued during the~~
14 ~~preceding calendar year; and the number of permit applications denied during~~
15 ~~the preceding calendar year, together with a summary of the basis of denial.~~

16 [Repealed.]

17 * * *

18 Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

19 § 164. STATE BOARD; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

20 The State Board shall engage local school board members and the broader
21 education community and, consistent with the provisions of this title, its own

1 rules, and rules adopted by the Secretary, establish and regularly update a long-
2 term strategic vision for the delivery of educational services in Vermont;
3 advise the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Secretary of Education on
4 high-priority educational policies and issues as they arise; and act in
5 accordance with legislative mandates, including the adoption of rules and
6 executing special assignments. In addition to other specified duties, the Board
7 shall:

8 * * *

9 ~~(17) Report annually on the condition of education statewide and on a~~
10 ~~supervisory union and school district basis. The report shall include~~
11 ~~information on attainment of standards for student performance adopted under~~
12 ~~subdivision (9) of this section, number and types of complaints of hazing,~~
13 ~~harassment, or bullying made pursuant to chapter 9, subchapter 5 of this title~~
14 ~~and responses to the complaints, financial resources and expenditures, and~~
15 ~~community social indicators. The report shall be organized and presented in a~~
16 ~~way that is easily understandable by the general public and that enables each~~
17 ~~school, school district, and supervisory union to determine its strengths and~~
18 ~~weaknesses. To the extent consistent with State and federal privacy laws and~~
19 ~~regulations, data on hazing, harassment, or bullying incidents shall be~~
20 ~~disaggregated by incident type, including disaggregation by ethnic groups,~~
21 ~~racial groups, religious groups, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity,~~

1 ~~disability status, and English language learner status. The Secretary shall use~~
2 ~~the information in the report to determine whether students in each school,~~
3 ~~school district, and supervisory union are provided educational opportunities~~
4 ~~substantially equal to those provided in other schools, school districts, and~~
5 ~~supervisory unions pursuant to subsection 165(b) of this title. [Repealed.]~~

6 * * *

7 Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 829 is amended to read:

8 § 829. PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

9 * * *

10 (e) Rules. The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner for Children
11 and Families shall jointly develop and agree to rules and present them to the
12 State Board for adoption under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as follows:

13 * * *

14 (10) To establish a system by which the Agency of Education and
15 Department for Children and Families shall jointly monitor and evaluate
16 prekindergarten education programs to promote optimal results for children
17 that support the relevant population-level outcomes set forth in 3 V.S.A.
18 § 2311 and to collect data that will inform future decisions. ~~The Agency and~~
19 ~~Department shall be required to report annually to the General Assembly in~~
20 ~~January.~~ At a minimum, the system shall monitor and evaluate:

21 * * *

1 Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 4635 is amended to read:

2 § 4635. PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST TRANSPARENCY

3 * * *

4 (d)(1) ~~The Attorney General shall provide a report to the General Assembly~~
5 ~~on or before December 1 of each year based on the information received from~~
6 ~~manufacturers pursuant to this section.~~ The Attorney General shall post the
7 ~~report and~~ the public version of each manufacturer's information submitted
8 pursuant to subdivision (c)(1)(B)(ii) of this section on the Office of the
9 Attorney General's website.

10 (2) The Green Mountain Care Board shall post on its website ~~the report~~
11 ~~prepared by the Attorney General pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection~~
12 ~~and~~ the public version of each manufacturer's information submitted pursuant
13 to subdivision (c)(1)(B)(ii) of this section, and may inform the public of the
14 availability of the report and the manufacturers' justification information.

15 * * *

16 Sec. 9. 28 V.S.A. § 104 is amended to read:

17 § 104. NOTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

18 * * *

19 (e) ~~The Commissioner of Corrections shall annually, by January 15, report~~
20 ~~to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate~~

1 ~~Committee on Institutions on the implementation of this section during the~~
2 ~~previous 12 months. [Repealed.]~~

3 Sec. 10. 33 V.S.A. § 4305 is amended to read:

4 § 4305. COORDINATED SYSTEM OF CARE

5 * * *

6 ~~(c) The Commissioners of Mental Health and for Children and Families and~~
7 ~~the Secretary of Education shall jointly submit to the General Assembly a~~
8 ~~report on the status of programs for children and adolescents with a severe~~
9 ~~emotional disturbance and their families, which shall include a system of care~~
10 ~~plan. The report shall be submitted together with the general appropriation bill~~
11 ~~provided for by 32 V.S.A. § 701. The system of care plan shall:~~

12 ~~(1) identify the characteristics and number of children and adolescents~~
13 ~~with a severe emotional disturbance in need of appropriate services, describe~~
14 ~~the educational, residential, mental health or other treatment services needed,~~
15 ~~describe currently available programs and resources, recommend a plan to~~
16 ~~meet the needs of such children, recommend priorities for the continuation or~~
17 ~~development of programs and resources, and make an assessment of the~~
18 ~~success of such programs; and~~

19 ~~(2) provide information as available on the extent to which children and~~
20 ~~adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance have not received services, the~~
21 ~~characteristics and number of those children and adolescents who have not~~

1 ~~received services and recommendations on how to address their identified~~
2 ~~needs. [Repealed.]~~

3 * * *

4 Sec. 11. 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 20 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 20. VERMONT CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

6 The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated to the Vermont Center for Crime
7 Victim Services for Americans with Disabilities Act improvements at domestic
8 violence shelters. ~~Annually, on or before December 1, the Vermont Center for~~
9 ~~Crime Victim Services shall file with the commissioner of buildings and~~
10 ~~general services a report which details the status of the improvements funded~~
11 ~~in whole or in part by state capital appropriations.~~

12 Total Appropriation – Section 20 \$50,000

13 Sec. 12. REPEALS

14 The following are repealed:

15 (1) 6 V.S.A. § 4825 (report concerning activities in support of water
16 quality financial and technical assistance);

17 (2) 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 112a(b)(2)(A) (report on
18 utilization of services and expenses under Choices for Care);

19 (3) 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 192, Sec. 5.221(b) (report on use of
20 appropriations for household weatherization);

1 (4) 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. 3 (report on Genuine Progress

2 Indicator);

3 (5) 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. C.106 (Vermont Health

4 Connect monthly reports);

5 (6) 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. E.100.5(g) (report on

6 resources made available from the Vermont Enterprise Fund);

7 (7) 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 195, Secs. 3(f) and 4(b) (evaluate goals

8 and performance of pretrial services and precharge programs);

9 (8) 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 68, Sec. 3 (report on concussions

10 suffered by student athletes);

11 (9) 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 174, Sec. 1(c)(2) (Auditor report filed if

12 a privatization contract has not achieved the required cost savings or complied

13 with required performance measures); and

14 (10) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 79, Sec. 10(b) (report on status of the

15 Broadband Innovation Grant Program).

16 * * * Reports Extended Until 2030 Review * * *

17 Sec. 13. REPORTS REPEAL DELAYED

18 The reports set forth in this section shall not be subject to review under the

19 provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) until July 1,

20 2030;

- 1 (1) 3 V.S.A. § 168(f)(6) (Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile
2 Justice System Advisory Panel report and recommendations);
- 3 (2) 10 V.S.A. § 280ee(d) (Vermont Economic Development Authority
4 report concerning Broadband Expansion Loan Program activities);
- 5 (3) 10 V.S.A. § 325m(g) (Rural Economic Development Initiative
6 report);
- 7 (4) 13 V.S.A. § 5256 (Office of Defender General annual report);
- 8 (5) 13 V.S.A. § 5415(c) (Department of Public Safety report concerning
9 sex offender registry compliance);
- 10 (6) 18 V.S.A. § 909(e) (EMS Advisory Committee report concerning
11 progress toward goals of five-year plan);
- 12 (7) 20 V.S.A. § 2367 (Vermont Criminal Justice Council report
13 concerning use of electronic control devices);
- 14 (8) 20 V.S.A. § 2366(d) (Vermont Criminal Justice Council report
15 concerning fair and impartial policing policies and training);
- 16 (9) 20 V.S.A. § 4624 (Department of Public Safety report on drone use);
- 17 (10) 24 V.S.A. § 1892(g) (quadrennial analysis of recommendations and
18 conclusions of the tax increment financing capacity study and report);
- 19 (11) 29 V.S.A. § 160(e) (Department of Buildings and General Services
20 Property Management Revolving Fund annual report);

1 (12) 32 V.S.A. § 3340(a) (Vermont Economic Progress Council report
2 concerning Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program).

3 * * * Reports Exempted from 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) * * *

4 Sec. 14. 3 V.S.A. § 3902 is amended to read:

5 § 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

6 * * *

7 (d) Annually, the Office shall provide a written report to the House
8 Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, and
9 to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Natural Resources and
10 Energy on appropriations utilizing existing resources within State government
11 available in the Office of Economic Opportunity's weatherization data
12 management system that compiles performance data available on households
13 weatherized in the past year to include the:

14 (1) number of households weatherized;

15 (2) average program expenditure per household for energy efficiency;

16 (3) average percent in energy savings;

17 (4) energy and nonenergy benefits combined;

18 (5) benefits saved for every dollar spent;

19 (6) average savings per unit for heating fuels;

20 (7) gallons of oil saved related to the equivalent number of homes
21 heated;

1 (e) On or before the tenth Thursday after the convening of each biennial
2 and adjourned session, the Committee shall report to the General Assembly its
3 recommendation whether the candidates should continue in office, with any
4 amplifying information that it may deem appropriate, in order that the General
5 Assembly may discharge its obligation under Chapter II, § 34 of the
6 ~~Constitution of the State of Vermont~~ Constitution. The provisions of 2 V.S.A.
7 § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made
8 under this subsection.

9 * * *

10 Sec. 17. 6 V.S.A. § 4710 is amended to read:

11 § 4710. VERMONT FARM AND FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM

12 * * *

13 (f) In collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets
14 and the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Vermont Housing
15 and Conservation Board shall report in writing to the Senate Committees on
16 Agriculture and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and
17 the House Committees on Agriculture and Forestry and on Commerce and
18 Economic Development on or before January 31 of each year with a report on
19 the activities and performance of the Farm and Forest Viability Program. At a
20 minimum, the report shall include an evaluation of the Program utilizing the
21 performance goals and performance measures established in consultation with

1 the Advisory Board under subsection (d) of this section. The provisions of
2 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to
3 be made under this subsection.

4 * * *

5 Sec. 18. 6 V.S.A. § 4825 is amended to read:

6 § 4825. REPORTS

7 (a) Annually by January 15 of each year, the Secretary shall report to the
8 General Assembly regarding activities in support of the objectives of this
9 subchapter, including use of State, federal, and private funds:

10 * * *

11 (b) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall
12 not apply to the report to be made under this section.

13 Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

14 § 11. TREASURER'S LOCAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15 * * *

16 (e) Report. On or before January 15, the Advisory Committee annually
17 shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on
18 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Finance, and on
19 Government Operations and the House Committees on Appropriations, on
20 Commerce and Economic Development, on Ways and Means, and on
21 Government Operations and Military Affairs. The provisions of 2 V.S.A.

1 § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made
2 under this subsection. The report shall include the following:

3 * * *

4 Sec. 20. 10 V.S.A. § 531 is amended to read:

5 § 531. THE VERMONT TRAINING PROGRAM

6 * * *

7 (k) Report. Annually on or before January 15, the Secretary shall submit a
8 report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and
9 the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General
10 Affairs. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports)
11 shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. In addition to
12 the reporting requirements under section 540 of this title, the report shall
13 identify:

14 * * *

15 Sec. 21. 10 V.S.A. § 2609a is amended to read:

16 § 2609a. INCOME FROM LEASE OF MOUNTAINTOP
17 COMMUNICATION SITES

18 Annually on or before February 15, the Agency of Natural Resources shall
19 submit a report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and
20 the House ~~Committees~~ Committee on Energy and ~~Technology and on Natural~~
21 ~~Resources, Fish, and Wildlife~~ Digital Infrastructure containing an itemization

1 of the income generated through the end of the previous fiscal year from the
2 use of sites for communication purposes. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d)
3 (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under
4 this section.

5 Sec. 22. 10 V.S.A. § 6503 is amended to read:

6 § 6503. LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL

7 (a) The Committee shall report to the General Assembly its
8 recommendation to approve or not to approve the petition for the facility
9 together with such additional information and comment it deems appropriate.
10 The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not
11 apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

12 * * *

13 Sec. 23. 32 V.S.A. § 311 is amended to read:

14 § 311. RETIREMENT FUNDS INTEGRITY REPORT

15 * * *

16 (b) At the request of the House ~~or Senate Committee on Government~~
17 ~~Operations or on Appropriations~~ Committee on Appropriations or on
18 Government Operations and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on
19 Appropriations or on Government Operations, or the Joint Public Pension
20 Oversight Committee, the State Treasurer and the Commissioner of Finance

1 and Management shall present to the requesting committees the
2 recommendations submitted under 3 V.S.A. § 471(n) and 16 V.S.A. § 1942(r).

3 (c) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall
4 not apply to the report to be made under this section.

5 Sec. 24. 32 V.S.A. § 588 is amended to read:

6 § 588. SPECIAL FUNDS; ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

7 All special funds shall be organized and managed in accordance with the
8 provisions of this section.

9 * * *

10 (6) Accounting and reporting.

11 * * *

12 (B) In addition, the Commissioner shall annually report a list of any
13 special funds created during the fiscal year. The list shall furnish for each fund
14 its name, authorization, and revenue source or sources. The report for the prior
15 fiscal year shall be submitted to the General Assembly through the Joint Fiscal
16 Committee on or before December 1 of each year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A.
17 § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made
18 under this subdivision.

19 Sec. 25. 3 V.S.A. § 3303 is amended to read:

20 § 3303. REPORTING, RECORDS, AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

1 (a) Annual report and budget. The Secretary shall submit to the House
2 Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on
3 Institutions, concurrent with the Governor's annual budget request required
4 under 32 V.S.A. § 306, an annual report for information technology and
5 cybersecurity. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required
6 reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. The
7 report shall reflect the priorities of the Agency and shall include:

8 * * *

9 * * * Reports Modified * * *

10 Sec. 26. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 119, Sec. 8 is amended to read:

11 Sec. 8. REPORTING; UTILIZATION BY SERVICE MEMBERS AND
12 VETERANS

13 (a) The Executive Director of the Division of Fire Safety shall, on or before
14 February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce
15 and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and
16 on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic
17 Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations
18 regarding:

19 * * *

20 (b) The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall, on or
21 before February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on

1 Commerce and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military
2 Affairs, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on
3 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government
4 Operations regarding:

5 * * *

6 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, on or before February 1 of
7 each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic
8 Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government
9 Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing
10 and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding the number of
11 service members and veterans who, during the previous calendar year, were
12 certified to perform inspections without being required to pass an examination
13 as provided pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1227(b)(2).

14 (d) The Commissioner of Health shall, on or before February 1 of each
15 even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic
16 Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government
17 Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing
18 and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding the number of
19 service members and veterans who, during the previous calendar year, were
20 deemed to have knowledge of the prevention of food-borne disease, be able to
21 apply the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles, and have met the

1 criteria for “demonstration of knowledge” requirements set forth by the
2 Department of Health in rule for the purposes of obtaining a food
3 establishment license as provided pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4303(b) and the total
4 number of food establishment licenses issued to those service members and
5 veterans.

6 Sec. 27. 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 15. COURT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT ON PUBLIC RECORDS
8 CASES

9 On or before January 15, 2012, and ~~annually~~ on even years thereafter, the
10 Vermont court administrator’s office shall report to the senate and house
11 committees on government operations regarding contested cases filed in the
12 civil division of the superior court involving disputes under the Public Records
13 Act, as set forth in 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 4. The report shall include
14 the number of Public Records Act contested cases filed annually in the civil
15 division of the superior court, the disposition of such cases, and whether
16 attorney’s fees were awarded in any of the cases. The court administrator shall
17 submit a copy of a report required under this section to the secretary of state at
18 the same time the report is submitted to the senate and house committees on
19 government operations.

20 Sec. 28. 4 V.S.A. § 40 is amended to read:

21 § 40. REPORT ON TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

1 (a) Annually, on or before January 15 of every even year, the State Court
2 Administrator shall submit a report to the House Committees on General and
3 Housing and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate
4 Committee on Government Operations identifying for each of the two prior
5 calendar years:

6 (1) the total number of individuals employed by the Judiciary
7 Department on a temporary basis who have worked in excess of 1,280 hours in
8 the prior calendar year, excluding employees identified in 3 V.S.A. § 1011(7),
9 (8)(A)–(D), (8)(F) and (G), and (8)(I)–(K);

10 (2) the total number of temporary positions in which one or more
11 individuals have been employed for a combined total of more than 1,280
12 hours, excluding positions filled by employees identified in 3 V.S.A.
13 § 1011(7), (8)(A)–(D), (8)(F) and (G), and (8)(I)–(K);

14 (3) the total number of hours worked by each temporary employee
15 identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section; and

16 (4) the total number of years during which each temporary employee
17 identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section has worked for the
18 Judiciary Department.

19 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the State Court
20 Administrator need not submit the report if there were no temporary employees
21 hired in the prior two calendar years.

1 Sec. 29. REPEAL

2 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 2(c) (Vermont Criminal Justice
3 Council report concerning use of electronic control devices) is repealed.

4 Sec. 30. 20 V.S.A. § 2367 is amended to read:

5 § 2367. STATEWIDE POLICY; ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICES;
6 REPORTING

7 * * *

8 (f)(1) Every State, county, municipal, or other law enforcement agency and
9 every constable who is not employed by a law enforcement agency shall report
10 all incidents involving the use of an electronic control device to the Criminal
11 Justice Council in a form to be determined by the Council.

12 (2) Annually, on or before November 15, the Criminal Justice Council
13 shall report to the House Committees on Government Operations and Military
14 Affairs and on Judiciary and to the Senate Committees on Government
15 Operations and on Judiciary all incidents from the prior 12 months involving
16 the use of an electronic control device, a review of compliance with standards,
17 the adequacy of training and certification requirements, and the adequacy of
18 funding for mental health collaboration.

19 * * *

20 Sec. 31. 20 V.S.A. § 4662 is amended to read:

21 § 4662. CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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(g) Reports. On or before ~~January~~ February 15 each year, the Council shall ~~submit a written~~ report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Finance, and on Government Operations with a status update on the work of the Council and any recommendations for legislative action. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

* * * Vermont Sister State Program * * *

Sec. 32. 3 V.S.A. § 2479 is added to read:

§ 2479. VERMONT SISTER STATE PROGRAM

(a) Creation and purpose.

(1) The Vermont Sister State Program is created within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The Agency shall provide support to the Program and to the Sister State Program Committee as required.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to strengthen Vermont's international engagement and to foster mutually beneficial relationships with national and

1 subnational governments abroad, with a goal of promoting cultural exchange,
2 economic development, and educational cooperation.

3 (b) Program oversight.

4 (1) The Sister State Program Committee, composed of the following
5 members, shall oversee the Program:

6 (A) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or
7 designee;

8 (B) a member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the
9 Speaker of the House;

10 (C) a member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on
11 Committees;

12 (D) the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Vermont Council on
13 World Affairs or designee;

14 (E) the Vermont Adjutant General or designee;

15 (F) the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Vermont Arts Council
16 or designee; and

17 (G) three members, as follows:

18 (i) one member with expertise in cultural exchange or in Peace
19 Corps operations, appointed by the Governor;

20 (ii) one member representing a private institution of higher
21 education, appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

1 (iii) one member representing a public institution of higher
2 education, appointed by the Speaker.

3 (2) Members of the Committee shall serve two-year terms, provided that
4 members appointed pursuant to subdivision (1)(G) of this subsection shall
5 serve initial terms of three years each to establish staggered terms. Members
6 may be reappointed.

7 (3) The Committee shall elect a chair and vice chair from among its
8 members that shall each serve a two-year term.

9 (4) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

10 (c) Meetings.

11 (1) All meetings shall be called by the Chair, but in the event that the
12 Committee does not have a chair, a meeting may be called by the Secretary of
13 Commerce and Community Development or designee.

14 (2) The Committee shall meet:

15 (A) at least once quarterly, for the purpose of:

16 (i) evaluating current Program agreements;

17 (ii) proposing new Program agreements;

18 (iii) preparing its annual report; or

19 (iv) discussing any other matter that the Committee deems

20 relevant to its work; and

1 (B) to review and score an eligible Program application not later than
2 30 days after the Committee receives the application from the Agency,
3 pursuant to subdivision (d)(3) of this section.

4 (d) Program application, review, and approval procedures.

5 (1) Development of application process. The Agency, in consultation
6 with the Committee, shall develop a process by which an entity can apply and
7 be considered for admission as a partner to the Program. This process shall
8 include the development of:

9 (A) an official application to be in the Program;

10 (B) a confidential internal review procedure to be used by the
11 Agency to review Program applicants for sensitive political, legal, ethical, and
12 strategic factors;

13 (C) minimum eligibility requirements to be considered for the
14 Program;

15 (D) a fixed-scoring system, including a rubric, to be uniformly
16 applied by the Committee to evaluate all eligible applications;

17 (E) a memorandum of understanding template to be used and signed
18 by the State and an approved Program partner that shall include a termination
19 date; and

20 (F) any other necessary Program parameters, including the length of
21 time for partner agreements to be in effect.

1 (2) Agency initial verification.

2 (A) When a Program application has been received by the Agency
3 pursuant to this section, the Agency shall, before the Committee may meet to
4 review the application:

5 (i) verify that the application meets the Program's minimum
6 eligibility requirements; and

7 (ii) conduct a confidential internal review of the applicant.

8 (B) Not later than 10 days after completion of the Agency's initial
9 verification and review of an application pursuant to subdivision (A) of this
10 subdivision (2), the Agency shall send the Committee a copy of the application
11 along with a summary of the Agency's analysis.

12 (C) The confidential internal review process conducted in subdivision
13 (A)(ii) of this subdivision (2), along with any and all documents reviewed
14 during that process, shall be exempt from public inspection and copying.

15 (3) Committee review and recommendation.

16 (A) The Committee, upon receiving an application that has received
17 preliminary approval from the Agency, shall meet to review the application
18 pursuant to subdivision (c)(2)(B) of this section not later than 30 days after
19 receipt of the application from the Agency.

20 (B) If the Committee recommends that an application reviewed
21 pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) be approved, the Committee

1 shall submit its recommendation to the Governor along with a copy of the
2 application not later than 30 days after completing its review of the application.

3 The Committee shall not send to the Governor an application that the
4 Committee does not recommend be approved.

5 (4) Governor's review.

6 (A) The Governor shall have the sole authority to issue final approval
7 or disapproval of a Sister State Program application that the Committee
8 recommended be approved. The Governor shall send written notice of the
9 Governor's decision to the Agency not later than 10 days after the Governor's
10 decision.

11 (B) If the Governor disapproves a Program application, the
12 Governor's notice in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (4) shall include a
13 written explanation of why the Governor did not follow the recommendation of
14 the Committee.

15 (C) Upon the Agency's receipt of the Governor's decision pursuant
16 to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (4), the Agency shall notify the applicant
17 of the Governor's decision not later than 30 days after the Agency receives
18 notice of the Governor's decision.

19 (D) If the application is approved by the Governor, the Agency shall
20 finalize a memorandum of understanding between the State and the Sister State
21 Program applicant.

1 (5) Termination.

2 (A) The Committee may, at one of its meetings, propose to the
3 Governor upon a majority vote that an active Sister State Program partnership
4 be terminated.

5 (B) The Governor shall have the sole authority to terminate an active
6 Sister State Program partnership.

7 (e) Reporting. The Committee shall submit an annual report not later than
8 January 15 of each year to the Governor and to the House Committee on
9 Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on
10 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs that includes the
11 following:

12 (1) an executive summary of key development and outcomes of the
13 Program;

14 (2) a description of Committee activities, including a summary of
15 attendance and decisions at its meetings;

16 (3) updates on the Program, including an evaluation of sister state
17 applications, new partners, significant developments, metrics of success, and
18 challenges;

19 (4) a description of stakeholder engagement with the Program;

20 (5) a financial overview, including a summary of funding sources and
21 expenditures; and

1 (6) an outlook for the Program, which shall include strategic objectives,
2 potential new agreements, and growth opportunities for the next year.

3 (f) Compensation and reimbursement.

4 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
5 Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's
6 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
7 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than eight
8 meetings per year. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to
9 the General Assembly.

10 (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
11 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
12 § 1010 for not more than eight meetings per year. These payments shall be
13 made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community
14 Development.

15 * * * Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission * * *

16 Sec. 33. 9 V.S.A. chapter 111B is amended to read:

17 CHAPTER 111B. TRADE COMMISSIONS

18 § 4129. VERMONT-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

19 (a) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is established within the State
20 Treasurer's office to advance bilateral trade and investment between Vermont
21 and Ireland. The Commission shall consist of ~~seven~~ nine members as follows:

- 1 (1) two members, appointed by the Governor;
- 2 (2) two members, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 3 (3) two members, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees;
- 4 ~~and~~
- 5 (4) the State Treasurer or designee;
- 6 (5) the Commissioner of Economic Development or designee; and
- 7 (6) the President of the University of Vermont or designee.

8 * * *

9 (c) The members of the Commission, ~~except for the State Treasurer or~~
10 ~~designee, appointed pursuant to subdivisions (a)(1)–(3) of this section:~~

11 (1) shall be appointed for terms of four years each and shall continue to
12 serve until their successors are appointed, except that in order to achieve
13 staggered terms, the two members appointed by the Governor shall serve initial
14 terms of two years each and the two members appointed by the Speaker of the
15 House shall serve initial terms of three years each;

16 (2) Members may be reappointed; upon the expiration of the member's
17 term;

18 (3) ~~A member serves~~ serve at the pleasure of the member's appointing
19 authority; and

20 (4) ~~Not shall consist of not~~ more than two members ~~-serving on the~~
21 Commission may be members of the General Assembly.

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(f) The Commission, in coordination with the State Treasurer's office, shall submit a written report with its findings, results, and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly within one year ~~of~~ following its initial organizational meeting and on or before December 1 of each succeeding year for the activities of the current calendar year. The report shall also include a:

(1) disclosure listing any in-kind contributions received by specific members of the Commission through their work in the Commission in the current calendar year; and

(2) detailed accounting from the State Treasurer's office of the:

(A) administrative expenses that have been paid with funds raised by the Commission, pursuant to subsection (g) of this section; and

(B) funds raised and donations, grants, and bequests received through the Commission including the name, country of residence, and amount donated of each contributor.

(g)(1) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is authorized to raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone or with other groups, and accept donations, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions, to defray the Commission's administrative expenses ~~and to carry out its purposes as set forth in this chapter.~~

1 (2) The funds, donations, grants, or bequests received pursuant to ~~this~~
2 ~~chapter~~ subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be deposited in a bank account
3 and allocated ~~annually~~ by the State Treasurer's office to defray the
4 Commission's administrative expenses ~~and carry out its purposes~~. Any monies
5 so withdrawn shall not be used for any purpose other than the payment of
6 administrative expenses under incurred pursuant to this chapter section and
7 shall be itemized and tracked for reporting purposes by the State Treasurer's
8 office. Interest earned shall remain in the bank account. The State Treasurer
9 shall include the balance of the account in the annual reporting required
10 pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

11 (3) For purposes of this section, "administrative expenses" does not
12 include any:

13 (A) expenses related to:

14 (i) campaign or election activity; or

15 (ii) food or beverages provided at official Commission meetings;

16 or

17 (B) other expense that is not specific to the administrative functions
18 of the Commission.

19 (h) Members of the Commission shall not receive any compensation or be
20 entitled to reimbursement of expenses by the State of Vermont or from the

1 fund managed by the State Treasurer pursuant to subsection (g) of this section
2 for their service on the Commission.

3 Sec. 34. REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE VERMONT-IRELAND
4 TRADE COMMISSION

5 On or before December 1, 2029, the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission
6 shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and
7 Economic Development and to the Senate Committee on Economic
8 Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following information:

9 (1) a summary of the accomplishments of the Commission since its
10 inception;

11 (2) a detailed analysis as to how the Commission has served its
12 legislative purposes pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4129(b); and

13 (3) an accounting on funds raised and details on gifts received pursuant
14 to 9 V.S.A. § 4129(g) since the Commission's inception.

15 * * * Effective Dates * * *

16 Sec. 35. EFFECTIVE DATES

17 (a) Secs. 1–31 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

18 (b) This section and Secs. 32–34 shall take effect on passage.