

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry to which was
3 referred House Bill No. 868 entitled “An act relating to prohibiting the use of
4 ultra-processed foods in school food programs” respectfully reports that it has
5 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out
6 all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. HEALTHY FOODS IN SCHOOL MEALS; STUDY;

8 REPORT

9 (a) Creation. There is created the Healthy Foods in School Meals Task
10 Force to study and report on the use of ultra-processed foods in school food
11 programs with recommendations for whether, and if so, how, to limit the use of
12 such foods.

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

15 (1) one school food nutritionist;

16 (2) one representative of the Vermont Farm to School Program;

17 (3) one member of the House of Representatives who shall be appointed
18 by the Speaker of the House;

19 (4) one member of the Senate who shall be appointed by the Committee
20 on Committees; and

21 (5) TBD—Committee policy decision.

1 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall study and report on the use of
2 ultra-processed foods in school meal programs with recommendations for
3 whether, and if so, how, to limit the use of such foods. The Task Force’s
4 recommendations shall include the identification of specific foods to phase out,
5 practices schools may adopt to utilize local produce, recommendations for how
6 schools may cook from unprocessed materials, and how to minimize the use of
7 ultra-processed foods in Vermont’s school meal programs. The Task Force
8 shall examine different food preparation practices among various schools in
9 the State and identify the best practices schools currently use to reduce reliance
10 on ultra-processed foods.

11 (d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,
12 and legal assistance of the Agency of Education and the Agency of
13 Agriculture.

14 (e) Report. On or before December 15, 2026, the Healthy Foods in School
15 Meals Task Force shall submit a written report to the House Committee on
16 Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on
17 Agriculture with its findings, including a report on best practices schools may
18 adopt to reduce the use of ultra-processed foods in school meals and any
19 recommendations for legislative action.

20 (f) Meetings. The Task Force shall meet at least monthly between
21 September and December 2026.

1 (1) The Secretary of Education or the Secretary’s designee shall call the
2 first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before September 1, 2026.

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

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

6 (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on January 15, 2027.

7 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

8 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
9 Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in the member’s
10 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
11 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six
12 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the
13 General Assembly.

14 (2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem
15 compensation and reimbursement as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not
16 more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies
17 appropriated to the Agency of Education and the Agency of Agriculture.

18 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.

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1 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE