

1 H.367

2 Introduced by Representatives Cina of Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Burt
3 of Cabot, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Coffin of Cavendish,
4 Demar of Enosburgh, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport,
5 Page of Newport City, and White of Waitsfield

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Economic development; tourism; Olympics

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
10 Vermont Olympics Task Force, which will produce and present a proposal of
11 Vermont hosting the Olympic Games.

12 An act relating to creating the Vermont Olympics Task Force

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

14 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

15 The General Assembly finds the following:

16 (1) That the Olympic host selection process has been reformed in recent
17 years to reduce the cost of hosting and to make the Olympic Games
18 organization more sustainable. According to the International Olympic
19 Committee:

1 (A) Olympic hosts must maximize the use of existing and temporary
2 venues and build new ones only if there is a long-term legacy need. Events
3 can be located in more than one city, region, or country.

4 (B) Olympic projects, or bids, are assessed according to several
5 elements, including how well they fit with existing regional and national
6 development plans, in addition to the long-term strategic goals of the
7 Olympics. Any project shall have strong public and political support and be
8 aligned with local long-term socioeconomic development plans.

9 (C) Each potential host should focus on developing a climate-
10 responsible project that will create lasting community benefits.

11 (2) That climate change has begun to impact Vermont with less snow,
12 more rain, and landslides forcing a reconsideration of the way the State's land
13 is used. Climate disasters especially affect the public health and economic
14 benefits of the State's recreation industry. Tourism in Vermont is a three-
15 billion-dollar industry that supports over 30,000 jobs in Vermont, or 10 percent
16 of Vermont's workforce. The Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing
17 (VDTM) appreciates the importance of cultivating the international tourism
18 market. There are a variety of ways that VDTM targets international
19 audiences, including having representation on the ground in key markets,
20 hosting international media in Vermont, and meeting with domestic receptive
21 tour operators.

1 (3) In the face of climate change, the General Assembly must make
2 decisions about how to invest in sustainable and resilient infrastructure in our
3 regional planning, land use, and economic development. As the State adapts to
4 meet the great challenges of life on Earth in the 21st century, we can promote a
5 more sustainable, equitable, and resilient way of life here and also across the
6 planet through the process of hosting the Olympic Games.

7 Sec. 2. VERMONT OLYMPICS TASK FORCE

8 (a) Creation. There is created the Vermont Olympics Task Force to prepare
9 and present a proposal to the International Olympic Committee and the U.S.
10 Olympic and Paralympic Committee about the feasibility of Vermont hosting
11 the Games of the Olympiad, the Olympic Winter Games, or the Summer or
12 Winter Youth Olympic Games.

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

15 (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be
16 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

17 (2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
18 Committee on Committees;

19 (3) the current member representing Vermont in the U.S. House of
20 Representatives or designee;

21 (4) the State Treasurer or designee;

1 (5) one person representing a Vermont Regional Planning Commission,
2 who shall be appointed by the Chair of the Vermont Association of Planning
3 and Development Agencies;

4 (6) one person who owns and operates a small business with experience
5 in the tourism industry in the State, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of
6 Commerce and Community Development; and

7 (7) one person who has competed in the Olympic Games as an athlete,
8 who shall be appointed by the Special Olympics Vermont Board of Directors.

9 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall perform the following duties:

10 (1) review the current process, criteria, and requirements for hosting the
11 Olympic Games;

12 (2) consult with Regional Planning Commissions during regional
13 planning to create land use maps that support requirements of the proposal set
14 forth in subdivisions (d)(2) and (3) of this section;

15 (3) prepare a proposal for hosting the Olympic Games in the State that
16 aligns with the goals of the Olympic Movement as set forth in the Olympic
17 Agenda 2020 and Olympic Agenda 2020+5 and includes regional development
18 plans of the State;

19 (4) present the proposal to the International Olympic Committee and the
20 U.S. National Olympic Committee; and

1 (5) engage in ongoing dialogue about the feasibility of the proposal with
2 the International Olympic Committee and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic
3 Committee.

4 (d) Proposal. The Task Force shall prepare a proposal for hosting the
5 Olympic Games in the State that:

6 (1) aligns with the goals of the Olympic Movement as set forth in the
7 Olympic Agenda 2020 and Olympic Agenda 2020+5;

8 (2) integrates to the extent possible regional and national development
9 plans;

10 (3) assesses regional strengths and identifies potential sites for
11 redevelopment to use for the colocation of athletic facilities, housing, and other
12 infrastructure that promotes the common good;

13 (4) supports State housing plans and meets projected needs for
14 permanent housing;

15 (5) promotes a vibrant and sustainable tourism industry as part of a
16 regenerative economy built on regional and local assets;

17 (6) fosters affordability and economic opportunity;

18 (7) improves transportation infrastructure between the State and
19 surrounding regions;

20 (8) invests in food security measures, ecological resilience,
21 environmental protection, and waste reduction;

1 (9) promotes equity, inclusion, belonging, and social opportunity;

2 (10) promotes civic engagement;

3 (11) improves social determinants of health; and

4 (12) presents a long-term State vision that can be used as global model
5 for a sustainable, resilient, and equitable way of life on the planet.

6 (e) Reporting. The Task Force shall provide updates on its proposal work
7 to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2025 and on or before
8 March 31, 2026, with a final written report due on or before December 31,
9 2026.

10 (f) Compensation.

11 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
12 Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem
13 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for
14 not more than 20 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies
15 appropriated to the General Assembly.

16 (2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem
17 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
18 § 1010 for not more than 20 meetings. These payments shall be made from
19 monies appropriated to the Task Force.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.