

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

7 * * * Purpose and Findings * * *

8 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

9 The purpose of this act is to advance the principle of government
10 accountability by examining how evidence is used to inform policy, how State
11 laws are implemented, and how legislation may be structured to achieve its
12 intended outcomes. This act seeks to support consistent and transparent
13 accountability practices through simple, clear, independent, objective, and fact-
14 based processes.

15 * * * Creation of the Pilot Government Accountability Committee * * *

16 Sec. 2. PILOT GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

17 (a) Creation. There is created the Pilot Government Accountability
18 Committee to examine governmental practices, make recommendations on
19 improving those practices, and develop effective tools for evaluating
20 government accountability.

1 **(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following**
2 **members:**

3 **(1) five voting members:**

4 **(A) two current members of the House of Representatives, not all**
5 **from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the**
6 **House:**

7 **(B) two current members of the Senate, not all from the same**
8 **political party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees; and**
9 **(C) one member, who previously served as but no longer is a member**
10 **of the General Assembly, to be appointed by the Governor; and**

11 **(2) three nonvoting members:**

12 **(A) the Chief Performance Officer, or designee;**
13 **(B) the Auditor of Accounts, or designee; and**
14 **(C) one member related, who shall have relevant experience and**
15 **knowledge in the matters being considered by the Committee, to be appointed**
16 **by the Governor.**

17 **(c) Selection of issues before the Committee. The chair of each standing**
18 **committee in the House of Representatives shall submit one recommendation**
19 **to the Chair of the House Committee on Government Operations and Military**
20 **Affairs, and the chair of each standing committee in the Senate shall submit**
21 **one recommendation to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Government**

1 Operations as to what singular issue should be considered by the Pilot
2 Government Accountability Committee. The House Committee on
3 Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on
4 Government Operations shall then each select three from the received
5 recommendations and refer these to the Pilot Government Accountability
6 Committee on or before February 28, 2027.

7 (d) Powers and duties. The Committee shall have duties as described in
8 this section.

9 (1) Examination of issues selected by Committee. The Committee shall
10 be empowered to examine, investigate, and otherwise analyze issues that it
11 selects pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

12 (2) Review of program performance. The Committee shall examine
13 whether State programs and initiatives are advancing the policy goals
14 established in statute, including consideration of outcome data, implementation
15 progress, and operational challenges.

16 (3) Consideration of evidence and evaluation. The Committee shall
17 review available research, independent evaluations, audits, and performance
18 measures relevant to State programs and policies and encourage the use of
19 reliable data and evaluation methods in legislative decision-making.

20 (4) Identification of effective practices and improvement opportunities.
21 The Committee shall highlight approaches that demonstrate positive outcomes,

1 identify barriers to effective implementation, and recommend reasonable
2 opportunities for improvement, coordination, or replication where appropriate.

3 (5) Support for alignment of policy, funding, and outcomes. The
4 Committee shall provide information and recommendations that assist the
5 General Assembly in aligning appropriations, statutory intent, and measurable
6 results.

7 (6) Monitoring of follow-up actions. The Committee shall, when
8 issuing recommendations, request updates from relevant agencies regarding
9 actions taken or progress made, as appropriate.

10 (7) Coordination with existing oversight entities. The Committee shall
11 work in consultation with legislative committees of jurisdiction, the State
12 Auditor, Chief Performance Officer, and other relevant entities to avoid
13 duplication and to support efficient use of State resources.

14 (8) Surveying of data and data impact. The Committee shall survey
15 available State data and documented impacts to better understand
16 implementation, outcomes, and opportunities for improvement.

17 (9) Communication of outcomes. The Committee shall consider how
18 and when program outcomes and performance information are communicated,
19 including the audiences receiving such information and the clarity, timeliness,
20 and usefulness of the communication for supporting transparency, public
21 understanding, and informed decision-making.

1 (10) Development of evaluation tools. The Committee may consider the
2 development or use of appropriate tools and methods to assess program
3 outcomes and performance, including measures that support consistent
4 evaluation, transparency, and informed legislative and administrative decision-
5 making.

6 (e) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
7 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Joint Fiscal
8 Office.

9 (f) Report. On or before November 15, 2027, and then again on or before
10 November 15, 2028, the Committee shall present and submit a written report to
11 the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the
12 Senate Committee on Government Operations that includes any findings on the
13 issues examined, a detailed description of how the Committee fulfilled its
14 duties, and any recommendations for legislative action.

15 (g) Meetings.

16 (1) Legislative Counsel shall call the first meeting of the Committee to
17 occur on or before March 1, 2027.

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

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

21 (h) Compensation and reimbursement.

6 (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
7 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
8 § 1010 for not more than 10 meetings. These payments shall be made from
9 monies appropriated to Agency of Administration.

10 (i) Appropriation. The sum of \$ 2,000.00 is appropriated to the Agency of
11 Administration from the General Fund in fiscal year 2027 for per diem
12 compensation and reimbursement of expenses for members of the Committee.

13 (j) Prospective Repeal. The Committee shall cease to exist on June 30.
14 2029.

15 * * * Effective Date * * *

16 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on passage.

18

19

20

21

1 (Committee vote: _____)

2 _____

3 Representative _____

4 FOR THE COMMITTEE