

1 H.762

2 Introduced by Representative Birong of Vergennes

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Municipal and county government; structure of county governance

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to extend the

7 prospective repeal of the County and Regional Governance Study Committee

8 and its associated report deadline.

9 An act relating to the County and Regional Governance Study Committee

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

11 Sec. 1. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 118, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 1. COUNTY AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE STUDY

13 COMMITTEE: REPORT

15 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be, to the extent possible, composed
16 of members from geographically diverse regions of the State. The Committee
17 shall elect its chair from among its members. The Committee shall be
18 composed of the following members:

19 (1) three current members of the House of Representatives, who shall
20 not all be from the same political party, ~~the first of whom shall be the Chair of~~

1 the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and the
2 ~~second and third of whom~~ shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
3 (2) three current members of the Senate, who shall not all be from the
4 same political party, ~~the first of whom shall be the Chair of the Senate~~
5 ~~Committee on Government Operations~~, and ~~the second and third of whom~~
6 shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees.

7 (c) Powers and duties.

8 (1) The Committee shall study and make recommendations to the
9 General Assembly on how to improve the structure and organization of county
10 and regional government, including:

11 (A) enhancement and optimization of public safety;
12 (B) enhancement of regional collaboration and planning;
13 (C) efficient, equitable, and transparent allocation of public
14 resources;

15 (D) promotion of effective regional public services for individuals
16 and municipalities;

17 (E) clarification of the role and oversight of elected county officials
18 and their departments;

19 (F) reduction of duplicated public services and promotion of
20 opportunities for intermunicipal collaboration;

1 (G) balance of availability and cost of services across municipalities

2 in each county;

3 (H) mechanisms of county and regional government structures in
4 other states; **and**

5 (I) impact of climate change and resiliency on the maintenance of
6 public infrastructure, delivery of regional government services, and
7 coordination of regional emergency planning; and

10 * * *

11 (e) Report. On or before ~~November 1, 2025~~ December 15, 2026, the
12 Committee shall report to the House Committee on Government Operations
13 and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations
14 with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

15 (f) Meetings.

16 * * *

17 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on July 1, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.