

January 28, 2026

To: House Committee on Government Operations

Re: Updates to 3 V.S.A. 636 – RECI Membership

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shelley Martin and I am the President of the Vermont Retired State Employees Association (VRSEA). The VRSEA is a nonprofit organization that represents all Vermont retired state employees, and their beneficiaries, regardless of their previous membership in the Vermont State Employees Association (VSEA). As such, we represent over 8,000 individuals.

I am here today to request an update to 3 V.S.A 636, which relates to the Retired Employees Committee on Insurance (RECI). This advisory committee was established – prior to the establishment of VRSEA - as a means for current and retired state employees to review health insurance benefits available to retired employees through the state and to make recommendations for changes prior to the bidding process. Meetings must be held twice per year. Currently, the Secretary of Administration must appoint three members, two of which must be retired state employees, and the VSEA must select three members, one of which must be a retired state employee.

Specific language change requests are included in redline below; however, our request is to name VRSEA in statute and request that VRSEA selects three members to serve on RECI.

There are two primary reasons we are requesting this change:

1. During a sunset review meeting with the Agency of Administration, it was determined that there is value to continue RECI, but that VRSEA should be listed in statute. This request is in direct response to that determination.
2. Until recently, VRSEA membership has been limited to only two members. However, it takes three members to call a meeting, if one is not set by the Chair. For the last two years, RECI has met only once. VRSEA would like to be able to uphold the statutory requirements outlined in legislation.

While VRSEA enjoys a great relationship with the Agency, specifically with the Department of Human Resources, this can change quickly under a new administration or staffing. VRSEA views participation on RECI to be an essential means of maintaining a clear, statutorily mandated line of communication between their members and the administration as it pertains to their insurance benefits, regardless of the administration.

Recommended language change

3 V.S.A. § 636

§ 636. Retired Employees' Committee on Insurance; membership; duties

- (a) The Retired Employees' Committee on Insurance is hereby created. The Committee shall consist of ~~six~~ seven members, three to be selected by ~~the Secretary of Administration, at least two of whom shall be retired State employees,~~ the Vermont Retired State Employees Association, and three to be selected by the Vermont State Employees' Association, at least one of whom shall be a retired State employee. Members shall serve for terms of two years. The Commissioner of Human Resources, or designee, shall be an ex officio member of the Committee.