

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; afterschool programs; universal access

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the

5 Task Force for Universal Afterschool Access to consider and make

6 recommendations on the framework for, the costs of, and related long-term

7 funding sources for access to universal afterschool programs.

8 An act relating to universal access to afterschool programs

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

10 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

11 (a) Children who participate in afterschool activities and programs do  
12 better in school and in life generally than children without these options.

13 (b) Access to universal afterschool programs expands equity and choices  
14 for children and families and supports working parents by reducing the  
15 logistical and financial burden of afterschool care.

16 (c) Current research demonstrates that involvement in high-quality  
17 afterschool programs decreases a child’s risk for substance abuse. For  
18 example, a 2018 McDowell Group report for the Alaska Afterschool Network  
19 found that high school students who participated in afterschool programs were  
20 39 percent less likely to experiment with marijuana.

1       Sec. 2. TASK FORCE FOR UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL ACCESS

2           (a) Creation. There is created the Task Force for Universal Afterschool  
3       Access to consider and make recommendations on the framework for, the costs  
4       of, and related long-term funding sources for access to universal afterschool  
5       programs.

6           (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following  
7       15 members:

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

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

12          (3) the Secretary of Education or designee;

13          (4) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

14          (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association  
15       or designee;

16          (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or  
17       designee;

18          (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Council of Special Education  
19       Administrators or designee;

20          (8) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or  
21       designee;

1           (9) the Chair of the Vermont Council of Independent Schools or  
2           designee;

3           (10) a representative of Vermont home study programs, appointed by the  
4           Governor;

5           (11) a representative of Vermont Boys and Girls Clubs, appointed by the  
6           Governor;

7           (12) three representatives of afterschool programs who represent the  
8           breadth of geographic areas within the State, appointed by the Governor; and

9           (13) the Executive Director of Vermont Afterschool, Inc. or designee.

10          (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall consider and make  
11          recommendations on the framework for, the costs of, and related long-term  
12          funding sources for access to universal afterschool programs.

13           (1) The Task Force shall map existing afterschool programs and  
14           highlight gaps in access and equity, including equity for Vermonters with  
15           disabilities

16           (2) The Task Force shall recommend, as part of the framework, best  
17           practices and key evidence-based strategies to maximize health and substance  
18           abuse prevention and shall consult with the Substance Misuse Prevention and  
19           Advisory Council.

20           (3) The Task Force shall consider the report entitled “Closing the Gap in  
21           Vermont: The Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Special Fund,” dated

1 November 2015, issued by the Working Group on Expanded Learning  
2 Opportunities of Vermont’s PreK–16 Council.

3 (4) The Task Force shall review the status and results of the Afterschool  
4 for All Grant Program administered by the Department for Children and  
5 Families.

6 (5) In exploring funding sources, the Task Force shall prefer solutions  
7 that do not draw upon the State’s Education Fund and shall explore the  
8 possibility of using potential revenue from the taxation and regulation of  
9 cannabis.

10 (6) The Task Force may recommend legislative language to enact its  
11 recommendations.

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

14 (e) Meetings.

15 (1) The Governor shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur  
16 on or before June 30, 2020.

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

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

20 (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on December 16, 2020.

1        (f) Reports. On or before December 15, 2020, the Task Force shall submit  
2        a written report to the Governor and the House and Senate Committees on  
3        Education with its findings and recommendations.

4        (g) Reimbursement.

5            (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
6        Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in his or her  
7        capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
8        reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than six  
9        meetings.

10           (2) Members of the Task Force who are not employees of the State of  
11        Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their  
12        attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of  
13        expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings.

14           (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$7,200.00 is appropriated for fiscal year  
15        2021 from the General Fund to the Agency of Administration to provide  
16        funding for per diem compensation and reimbursement under subsection (g) of  
17        this section.

18        Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19           This act shall take effect on passage.