

1 Introduced by Representatives Gannon of Wilmington and LaClair of Barre
2 Town
3 Referred to Committee on
4 Date:
5 Subject: Executive Branch; boards and commissions; Vermont Educational
6 Health Benefits Commission; Study Committee on Sales and Use
7 Tax; Committee on Enhancing Vermont’s Software and Information
8 Technology Economy; Youth in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and
9 Food Production Consortium; Department of Labor Advisory
10 Council; Working Group on State Workforce Development; per diem
11 compensation
12 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend
13 statutes relating to the State’s boards and commissions.

14 An act relating to boards and commissions

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

16 * * * Repeal of Vermont Educational Health Benefits Commission * * *

17 Sec. 1. REPEAL OF VERMONT EDUCATIONAL HEALTH BENEFITS
18 COMMISSION

19 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. H.7 (Vermont Educational Health
20 Benefits Commission) is repealed.

1 ~~who have the multiple skills necessary to handle successfully the multiple and~~
2 ~~varied responsibilities of farming.~~

3 ~~(3) Farms have always provided the environment for youth to acquire~~
4 ~~workplace skills such as responsibility, creativity, and initiative and~~
5 ~~occupational skills ranging from plant and animal science to economics and to~~
6 ~~grow therefore into sought after workers by a wide variety of employers.~~

7 ~~(4) Programs such as the Farm Youth Corps have provided the~~
8 ~~infrastructure that is necessary to connect youth to careers in agriculture,~~
9 ~~natural resources, and food production.~~

10 ~~(5) Programs that have provided youth with the opportunity to work on~~
11 ~~farms have declined due to reductions in federal funding.~~

12 ~~(b) Therefore, it is the purpose of this chapter to create and support~~
13 ~~programs for youth that will engage them in agriculture, natural resources, and~~
14 ~~food production in order to:~~

15 ~~(1) Provide them an opportunity to engage in work that provides them~~
16 ~~with hands on learning and allows them to develop a strong work ethic and~~
17 ~~vital workplace and occupational skills that will be valuable in any career they~~
18 ~~might pursue.~~

19 ~~(2) Encourage youth to pursue pathways to careers in agriculture,~~
20 ~~natural resources, and food production.~~

1 ~~(3) Provide farmers with young short-term workers and the opportunity~~
2 ~~to mentor future, long-term employees.~~

3 ~~(4) Ensure that youth are aware of the benefits of agriculture, natural~~
4 ~~resources, and food production to themselves and to Vermont.~~

5 ~~§ 1152. YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND~~
6 ~~FOOD PRODUCTION CONSORTIUM; CREATION~~

7 ~~(a) There is created a Youth in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Food~~
8 ~~Production Consortium of program providers in order that programs to build~~
9 ~~pathways to careers in agriculture, natural resources, and food production may~~
10 ~~be connected, developed, and supported in a coordinated manner. The~~
11 ~~Consortium shall comprise employees of the Department of Labor assigned by~~
12 ~~the Commissioner of Labor; employees of the Agency of Education assigned~~
13 ~~by the Secretary of Education; employees of the Agency of Agriculture, Food~~
14 ~~and Markets appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets;~~
15 ~~employees of the Agency of Natural Resources appointed by the Secretary of~~
16 ~~Natural Resources; representatives of the Extension Service of the University~~
17 ~~of Vermont selected by the Service; and representatives from agriculture, food,~~
18 ~~and natural resources businesses appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture,~~
19 ~~Food and Markets.~~

1 ~~(b) The consortium shall be attached to the Department of Labor for~~
2 ~~administrative support. It shall elect its own chair and meet as required to~~
3 ~~fulfill its obligations under this chapter.~~

4 ~~§ 1153. YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND~~
5 ~~FOOD PRODUCTION CONSORTIUM; POWERS AND DUTIES~~

6 ~~(a) The Consortium shall be charged with the oversight of the development~~
7 ~~and coordination of programs in agriculture, natural resources, and food~~
8 ~~production, and education to connect youths' experiences in agriculture,~~
9 ~~natural resources, and food production to their in-school learning and develop~~
10 ~~pathways for pursuing further education related to agriculture or natural~~
11 ~~resources. It shall seek to coordinate and connect programs around common~~
12 ~~standards, coordinate resources, provide a clearinghouse for information and~~
13 ~~technical assistance, establish a strong business and education partnership,~~
14 ~~identify missing components of the system, and oversee funds made available~~
15 ~~for the express purpose of implementing these pathways. It shall endeavor to~~
16 ~~sustain and expand programming in agriculture, natural resources, and food~~
17 ~~production on a statewide basis in order to affect middle and secondary school~~
18 ~~students in Vermont. The Consortium shall seek to ensure the effectiveness of~~
19 ~~all the programs in reaching large numbers of students, and in so far as~~
20 ~~possible, seek to provide programs in all regions of the State through a~~

1 ~~statewide system with uniform availability, eligibility, and funding~~
2 ~~requirements to make such opportunities available to all students.~~

3 ~~(b) Among the programs to be reviewed and coordinated by the~~
4 ~~Consortium are projects that involve agriculture and the environment;~~
5 ~~programs within the elementary and middle school system that provide hands-~~
6 ~~on learning, such as “Ag in the Classroom” sponsored by the Agency of~~
7 ~~Agriculture, Food and Markets, and “Forest, Fields, and Futures” sponsored by~~
8 ~~UVM Extension; and secondary school programs in agriculture and natural~~
9 ~~resources related areas in education; “Smokeyhouse” and other career~~
10 ~~technical education, agriculture, and natural resources programs offered by~~
11 ~~high schools and regional CTE centers. In addition, it shall review and~~
12 ~~coordinate programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps and the Farm~~
13 ~~Youth Corps of the Department of Labor, which has offered summer~~
14 ~~employment for students on farms, and other summer employment programs~~
15 ~~and alternative programs for in-school youth operated outside the public school~~
16 ~~funding system.~~

17 ~~(e) [Repealed.] [Repealed.]~~

18 * * * Repeal of the Department of Labor Advisory Council * * *

19 Sec. 5. 21 V.S.A. § 1306 is amended to read:

20 § 1306. ~~ADVISORY COUNCIL; MEMBERS; TERMS~~

1 ~~(a) The Governor shall appoint a State Department of Labor Advisory~~
2 ~~Council composed of eight members from the general public to include four~~
3 ~~employer representatives and four employee representatives who may fairly be~~
4 ~~regarded as employees because of their vocations, employment, and~~
5 ~~affiliations. Appointment of the four employee representatives, at least one of~~
6 ~~whom shall have experience in workers' compensation law and one of whom~~
7 ~~shall be a member of a building trade, shall be made from a list of qualified~~
8 ~~individuals submitted by the Vermont State Labor Council, the Vermont State~~
9 ~~Employees' Association, and the Vermont National Education Association.~~
10 ~~Appointment of the four employer representatives shall be made from a list of~~
11 ~~qualified individuals submitted by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce,~~
12 ~~Associated General Contractors of Vermont, and Vermont Businesses for~~
13 ~~Social Responsibility. The Council members shall be appointed for staggered~~
14 ~~terms of four years. The Council shall meet at least three times a year.~~

15 ~~(b) The Council shall advise the Commissioner regarding formulating~~
16 ~~policies by discussing the problems related to the functions and duties of the~~
17 ~~Department in order to develop impartial solutions and approaches to these~~
18 ~~issues.~~

19 ~~(c) The Commissioner may establish subcommittees composed solely of~~
20 ~~labor or management representatives and use a portion of the Council's~~
21 ~~meeting time to meet with these subcommittees.~~

1 ~~(d) Each member of the Council who is not a salaried official or State~~
2 ~~employee or is not otherwise compensated through employment for attending~~
3 ~~Council meetings is entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement for~~
4 ~~expenses as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010. [Repealed.]~~

5 * * * Repeal of Working Group on State Workforce Development * * *

6 Sec. 6. REPEAL OF WORKING GROUP ON STATE WORKFORCE

7 DEVELOPMENT

8 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. E.1 (State Workforce Development
9 System; Report) is repealed.

10 * * * Boards and Commissions Per Diem Compensation * * *

11 Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 1010 is amended to read:

12 § 1010. MEMBERS OF CERTAIN BOARDS

13 (a) Except for those members serving ex officio or otherwise regularly
14 employed by the State, the members of the following boards shall be entitled to
15 receive ~~\$50.00 in~~ per diem compensation:

16 (1) Board of Bar Examiners

17 (2) Board of Libraries

18 (3) Vermont Milk Commission

19 (4) Board of Education

20 (5) State Board of Health

21 (6) Emergency Board

- 1 (7) Board of Liquor and Lottery
- 2 (8) Human Services Board
- 3 (9) State Fish and Wildlife Board
- 4 (10) State Board of Mental Health
- 5 (11) Vermont Employment Security Board
- 6 (12) Capitol Complex Commission
- 7 (13) Natural Gas and Oil Resources Board
- 8 (14) Transportation Board
- 9 (15) Vermont Veterans' Home Board of Trustees
- 10 (16) Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- 11 (17) The Electricians' Licensing Board
- 12 (18) [Repealed.]
- 13 (19) Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Review Board
- 14 (20) Community High School of Vermont Board
- 15 (21) Parole Board

16 (b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, members of
17 professional or occupational licensing boards or commissions, advisory boards
18 or commissions, appeals boards, promotional boards, interstate boards,
19 supervisory boards and councils, or any other boards, commissions, or similar
20 entities that are not listed in subsection (a) of this section but are otherwise
21 entitled by act of the General Assembly to receive per diem compensation,

1 shall be entitled to receive per diem compensation ~~in the amount of \$50.00 per~~
2 ~~day~~ for each day devoted to official duties. ~~This subsection shall not reduce the~~
3 ~~amount of per diem compensation provided by act of the General Assembly to~~
4 ~~members of boards or commissions entitled to receive more than \$50.00 per~~
5 ~~day.~~

6 (2) “Per diem” means the amount of compensation to which a member
7 of a statutory board or commission is entitled for:

8 (A) attendance at a regular or special meeting of such board or
9 commission or any committee thereof; or

10 (B) performance of other duties directly related to the efficient
11 conduct of necessary board business as assigned and approved by the
12 chairperson, provided that payment for such duties shall be at the per diem rate
13 prorated for actual time spent performing duties. Proration shall be calculated
14 based on an eight-hour day. Under no circumstances shall the daily payment
15 exceed the per diem amount.

16 (c) The members of the boards and commissions, including those members
17 serving ex officio or otherwise regularly employed by the State, shall be
18 entitled to receive their actual and necessary expenses when away from home
19 or office upon their official duties.

20 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this
21 section, a member shall not be entitled to receive State per diem compensation

1 for any meeting or other official duty for which specific compensation is
2 provided by another source.

3 (e) The budget report of the Governor for each fiscal year shall contain a
4 separate schedule disclosing the current per diem compensation and allowable
5 expense reimbursement for appointed members of all boards, commissions,
6 councils, and committees and all other statutory-created management, policy
7 making, or advisory bodies of the Executive Branch who do not receive a
8 salary, whether appointed by the Governor or not, and the recommendations
9 for the next fiscal year. The appropriations committees of the General
10 Assembly shall review the recommendations and include in a separate section
11 of the annual appropriations act the per diem compensation and allowable
12 expense reimbursement for each such body, which shall constitute the
13 appropriation for per diem compensation and allowable expense
14 reimbursement increases for members of such bodies for the next fiscal year.
15 Per diem compensation authorized under this section shall be not less than
16 \$50.00 per day. The Governor may authorize per diem compensation and
17 expense reimbursement in accordance with this section for members of boards
18 and commissions, including temporary study commissions, created by
19 ~~Executive Order~~ executive order.

