

1 SPECIAL SESSION

2 H.17

3 Introduced by Representatives Cina of Burlington and O'Sullivan of  
4 Burlington

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Study committee and request for proposal; plan for transition to a  
8 zero-waste economy

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a study  
10 committee that shall issue an RFP to develop a plan for Vermont to transition  
11 to a zero-waste economy.

12 An act relating to a zero-waste economy

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

14 Sec. 1. STUDY COMMITTEE; REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

15 (a) Creation. There is created the Zero-Waste Economy Study Committee.

16 The Committee shall prepare and issue a request for proposal (RFP) for a plan  
17 as to how Vermont can transition to a zero-waste economy and shall oversee  
18 the work of the selected bidder in developing the plan.

19 (b) Membership. The Study Committee shall be composed of the following  
20 six members:

1           (1) two current members of the House of Representatives, not both from  
2           the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

3           (2) two current members of the Senate, not both from the same political  
4           party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

5           (3) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or  
6           designee; and

7           (4) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee.

8           (c) Powers and duties. The Study Committee shall develop and issue an  
9           RFP and shall select one of the bidders to develop a plan as to how Vermont  
10           shall transition to a zero-waste economy. The Study Committee shall enter  
11           into a contract with the selected bidder that shall require that the selected  
12           bidder produce a plan that provides recommendations, guidelines, and a  
13           timeline regarding transition to a 90 percent zero-waste, circular economy by  
14           2050 in Vermont.

15           (1) The plan's recommendations and guidelines shall incorporate the  
16           following objectives:

17           (A) to prevent waste from being generated;

18           (B) to promote sustainable materials management, with a preference  
19           for highest and best uses;

20           (C) to minimize reliance on waste disposal, landfilling, and  
21           incineration;

1           (D) to reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and  
2           other adverse environmental impacts;

3           (E) to identify possible economic and other incentives for the  
4           colocation of businesses and manufacturers in designated areas to share  
5           resources, reduce waste, and allow more productive use of waste and by-  
6           products;

7           (F) to encourage the adoption of biologically inspired production  
8           processes and materials;

9           (G) to use old sites first, before creating new ones; and

10          (H) to restore ecosystems whenever possible.

11          (2) In developing the plan, the selected bidder shall consider the  
12          following issues:

13           (A) how to move beyond full implementation of Vermont's universal  
14           recycling law;

15           (B) how to improve the waste management plans for solid waste  
16           districts;

17           (C) how to engage with each major region of the State to identify  
18           existing local businesses, community resources, strengths, needs, and  
19           challenges;

20           (D) possible incentives to increase productivity of existing  
21           operations;

1           (E) how to identify gaps in local economies that could be  
2           strategically filled to create closed-loop manufacturing;

3           (F) ways to encourage local energy generation and waste  
4           containment;

5           (G) how to provide food for the entire population year-round by  
6           increasing productivity of existing land and creating indoor growing facilities  
7           in every region in the State;

8           (H) whether it is viable to produce local bioreplacements for plastic  
9           to sell across the State and beyond;

10          (I) how to build a sustainable, local energy grid that sells to  
11          surrounding regions;

12          (J) how to capture phosphorus and other wastes from waters for  
13          recycling versus on-site management of wastewater;

14          (K) how to employ the objectives of existing wastewater plans;

15          (L) strategies for replacing the entire State vehicle fleet with electric  
16          vehicles; and

17          (M) how to build a green transportation infrastructure.

18          (3) In developing the plan, the selected bidder shall engage with relevant  
19          stakeholders including:

20                 (A) solid waste districts;

21                 (B) the Department of Environmental Conservation;

1           (C) the Vermont Chamber of Commerce;

2           (D) regional planning commissions; and

3           (E) environmental advocacy groups.

4           (d) Assistance. The Study Committee shall have the administrative and  
5 legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council in developing the RFP and  
6 the contract. The Study Committee shall determine the selected bidder by  
7 majority vote. The Chair of the Study Committee shall enter into the contract  
8 with the selected bidder and the Committee shall oversee the selected bidder's  
9 work and plan development. The Study Committee shall not delegate any of  
10 its duties or responsibilities to the Office of Legislative Council and the Office  
11 of Legislative Council shall not provide any administrative, legal, IT or other  
12 support or assistance to the selected bidder.

13           (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2019, the selected bidder shall  
14 provide the Study Committee with a written report setting forth findings and  
15 any recommendations for legislative action.

16           (f) Meetings.

17           (1) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall call  
18 the first meeting of the Study Committee to occur on or before August 1, 2018.

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

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

1        (g) Reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the  
2        General Assembly, legislative members of the Study Committee shall be  
3        entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to  
4        2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than ten meetings.

5        (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$30,000.00 is appropriated to the General  
6        Assembly from the General Fund in fiscal year 2019 for per diem  
7        compensation and reimbursement of expenses for members of the Study  
8        Committee and for hiring the selected bidder.

9        Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.