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H.338

Introduced by Representatives Wizowaty of Burlington, Ancel of Calais,  
Bissonnette of Winooski, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of  
Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Cross of Winooski, Dakin of  
Chester, Evans of Essex, French of Randolph, Hooper of  
Montpelier, Marek of Newfane, McCarthy of St. Albans City,  
Miller of Shaftsbury, Moran of Wardsboro, O'Sullivan of  
Burlington, Ram of Burlington, and Till of Jericho

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Government operations; Financial and Lending Efficiency Task  
Force; study

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a State  
Financial and Lending Efficiency Task Force to evaluate the costs and benefits  
of consolidating into one entity state finance and lending operations, investing,  
grant-making, and banking.

An act relating to increasing efficiency in state government finance and  
lending operations

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

2 Sec. 1. STATE FINANCIAL AND LENDING EFFICIENCY TASK FORCE

3 (a) Creation of task force. There is created a State Financial and Lending  
4 Efficiency Task Force to evaluate the costs and benefits of consolidating into a  
5 single entity multiple state government operations relating to finance and  
6 lending, grant-making, investing, and banking.

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

9 (1) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or  
10 designee.

11 (2) The President of the Vermont Community Foundation or designee.

12 (3) A business entrepreneur with relevant financial services experience,  
13 appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore.

14 (4) A current officer or executive of a Vermont-based banking  
15 institution, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

16 (5) The Vermont State Treasurer.

17 (6) One member of the Vermont House of Representatives, appointed by  
18 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

19 (7) One member of the Vermont Senate, appointed by the Senate  
20 President Pro Tempore.

1           (8) The Executive Director of the Vermont Economic Development  
2           Authority or designee.

3           (9) The executive director of a nonprofit organization with expertise in  
4           designing lending and banking services, appointed by the Senate President Pro  
5           Tempore.

6           (10) A municipal employee whose official duties involve local  
7           economic development, appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
8           Representatives.

9           (11) The Director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics or  
10          designee.

11          (c) Powers and duties.

12           (1) The Task Force shall study ways to increase efficiency and reduce  
13          costs in government financial operations, including:

14           (A) the number, nature, and scope of lending, loan servicing,  
15          investing, grant-making, and related operations performed by the State and its  
16          instrumentalities, and the costs and benefits of consolidating these activities  
17          into a single state entity or office;

18           (B) the costs and benefits of contracting out banking services,  
19          including fees, transaction costs, debt service, lost profit opportunities,  
20          opportunities to increase local investing, and administrative savings:

21           (i) to a single private institution; or

1                   (ii) through one or more new or existing state entities; and  
2                   (C) the costs and benefits of consolidating Vermont tax receipts, fees,  
3                   and certain other revenues, including impacts on debt service, and access to  
4                   capital for Vermont economic development activities and higher education  
5                   investments:

6                   (i) into one or more Vermont-based private banking  
7                   institutions; or

8                   (ii) into an existing or new public institution.

9                   (2) For purposes of its study of these issues, the Task Force shall have  
10                  administrative, policy, and legal support from the legislative Joint Fiscal Office  
11                  and the Office of Legislative Council.

12                  (d) Report. On or before January 15, 2014, the Task Force shall report to  
13                  the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations its findings and  
14                  any recommendations for legislative action.

15                  (e) Reimbursement. For physical attendance at meetings during  
16                  adjournment of the General Assembly, legislative members of the Task Force  
17                  shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement for expenses as provided  
18                  in 2 V.S.A. § 406; and other members of the Task Force who are not  
19                  employees of the State of Vermont shall be reimbursed at the per diem rate set  
20                  in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 plus mileage reimbursement.

1        (f) Appropriation. The sum of \$25,000.00 is appropriated from the General  
2        Fund in fiscal year 2014 to the Department of Finance and Management for  
3        per diem and expenses of the State Financial and Lending Efficiency Task  
4        Force under this section.

5        Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6        This act shall take effect on passage.