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H.541

Introduced by Representatives Wizowaty of Burlington, Bartholomew of  
Hartland, Burke of Brattleboro, Edwards of Brattleboro, Hooper  
of Montpelier, Lippert of Hinesburg, McCullough of Williston,  
Pearson of Burlington, Poirier of Barre City, Ram of  
Burlington, Spengler of Colchester, Yantachka of Charlotte and  
Zagar of Barnard

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Executive; genuine progress indicator

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to: 1) require a genuine progress  
indicator committee to develop an economic indicator, to be named “the  
genuine progress indicator,” to replace the gross domestic product as a  
measure of Vermont’s economic health; and 2) require the governor to use the  
genuine progress indicator developed by the committee as a factor in preparing  
the state budget.

An act relating to the genuine progress indicator

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

2 Sec. 1. GENUINE PROGRESS INDICATOR

3 (a) Creation of committee. There is created a genuine progress indicator  
4 committee to develop an economic indicator which shall be named “the  
5 genuine progress indicator.”

6 (b) Membership. The genuine progress indicator committee shall be  
7 composed of:

8 (1) the secretary of administration;

9 (2) the secretary of agriculture, food and markets or his or her designee;

10 (3) the commissioner of banking, insurance, securities, and health care  
11 administration or his or her designee;

12 (4) the secretary of commerce and community development or his or her  
13 designee;

14 (5) the commissioner of fish and wildlife or his or her designee;

15 (6) the commissioner of forest, parks and recreation or his or her  
16 designee;

17 (7) the commissioner of health or his or her designee

18 (8) the commissioner of labor or his or her designee;

19 (9) the commissioner of public safety or his or her designee;

20 (10) the commissioner of public service or his or her designee;

21 (11) the commissioner for children and families or his or her designee;

1           (12) the commissioner of environmental conservation or his or her  
2 designee;

3           (13) the secretary of natural resources or his or her designee;

4           (14) the secretary of transportation or his or her designee;

5           (15) a representative designated by the Gund Institute for Ecological  
6 Economics of the University of Vermont; and

7           (16) a representative designated by the Vermont Community  
8 Foundation.

9           (c) Powers and duties of committee; purpose of indicator.

10           (1) By November 1, 2012, the committee shall develop a genuine  
11 progress indicator to replace the gross domestic product as a measure of  
12 Vermont's economic health.

13           (2) The genuine progress indicator shall be one that adds in positive  
14 factors and subtracts negative factors which are not counted by standard gross  
15 domestic product accounting practices.

16           (3) The genuine progress indicator shall be based upon and be at least as  
17 comprehensive as the framework designed by the Gund Institute for Ecological  
18 Economics of the University of Vermont; shall incorporate basic human rights  
19 principles; and shall include at least the following measures:

20           (A) access to livable wages;

21           (B) access to affordable housing;

- 1           (C) access to health care;
- 2           (D) personal consumption expenditures;
- 3           (E) income distribution;
- 4           (F) personal consumption adjusted for income inequality;
- 5           (G) value of household labor;
- 6           (H) value of volunteer work;
- 7           (I) services of household capital;
- 8           (J) services of highways and streets;
- 9           (K) cost of crime;
- 10          (L) cost of family breakdown;
- 11          (M) loss of leisure time;
- 12          (N) cost of underemployment;
- 13          (O) cost of consumer durables;
- 14          (P) cost of commuting;
- 15          (Q) cost of household pollution abatement;
- 16          (R) cost of automobile accidents;
- 17          (S) cost of water pollution;
- 18          (T) cost of air pollution;
- 19          (U) cost of noise pollution;
- 20          (V) loss of wetlands;
- 21          (W) loss of farmland;

1           (X) depletion of nonrenewable resources;

2           (Y) long-term environmental damage;

3           (Z) cost of ozone depletion;

4           (AA) loss of forest cover;

5           (BB) net capital investment; and

6           (CC) net foreign lending and borrowing.

7           (4) In developing the genuine progress indicator prior to its  
8 implementation as set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the committee  
9 shall:

10           (A) Hold at least three public hearings in different geographic regions  
11 of the state to allow the public an opportunity to recommend additional  
12 measures of the genuine progress indicator. The committee shall consider the  
13 public recommendations in developing the genuine progress indicator.

14           (B) Report to the house and senate committees on government  
15 operations on the development of the genuine progress indicator and how the  
16 indicator may be used once implemented.

17           (d) Implementation.

18           (1) By November 1, 2012, the governor shall ensure that the genuine  
19 progress indicator developed by the committee is posted online on his or her  
20 official gubernatorial website.

1           (2) The governor shall use the genuine progress indicator developed by  
2           the committee as a factor in preparing subsequent state budgets.

3           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4           This act shall take effect on passage.