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H.569

Introduced by Representatives Cross of Winooski, Deen of Westminster,
French of Randolph, Poirier of Barre City, and Townsend of
South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Study committee on Vermont's future

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a
Committee on Building Vermont's Future.

An act relating to creating a Committee on Building Vermont's Future

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

Sec. 1. BUILDING VERMONT'S FUTURE STUDY COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created a Committee on Building Vermont's Future.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following 15
members:

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

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

1 (3) the Chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic
2 Development or designee;

3 (4) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Economic Development,
4 Housing and General Affairs or designee;

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

7 (6) the Secretary of Education or designee;

8 (7) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

9 (8) the President of the University of Vermont or designee;

10 (9) the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges or designee;

11 (10) a representative of labor who shall be appointed by the Speaker of
12 the House;

13 (11) a representative of the interests of the Vermont business community
14 who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

15 (12) a representative of a defense-related industry or business to be
16 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

17 (13) a representative of a peace organization to be appointed by the
18 Committee on Committees.

19 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study how to build a better
20 and more prosperous Vermont within ten years by retaining, expanding, and
21 diversifying manufacturing and other industries, including how to:

1 (1) retain and expand the State's economic base industries;

2 (2) retain and expand manufacturing industries within the State with the
3 goal of expanding associated jobs;

4 (3) diversify the State's economy and attract new industries and
5 employers;

6 (4) diversify defense-related industries and manufacturers into
7 nondefense-related products and services;

8 (5) coordinate economic development policy with investments in both
9 public and private sectors; and

10 (6) align the State's educational institutions with these goals.

11 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative and technical
12 assistance of the staff of the Agency of Commerce and Community
13 Development and the legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council.

14 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2015, the Committee shall submit a
15 written report to the General Assembly with specific findings as to how to
16 achieve the goals set forth in subsection (c) of this section, and any
17 recommendations for legislative action.

18 (f) Meetings.

19 (1) The Chairs of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic
20 Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing

1 and General Affairs shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or
2 before July 15, 2014.

3 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
4 first meeting.

5 (3)(A) A majority of the members of the Committee shall be physically
6 present at the same location to constitute a quorum.

7 (B) A member may vote only if physically present at the meeting
8 location.

9 (C) Action shall be taken only if there is both a quorum and a
10 majority vote of the members physically present and voting.

11 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 15, 2015.

12 (g) Reimbursement.

13 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
14 Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
15 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for
16 no more than six meetings.

17 (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State
18 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
19 attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
20 expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than six meetings.

1 (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$5,000.00 is appropriated from the General
2 Fund in fiscal year 2015 for per diem compensation and reimbursement of
3 expenses for members of the Committee.

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.