

No. 113. An act relating to the genuine progress indicator.

(S.237)

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

Sec. 1. PURPOSE, DEFINITION, AND INTENT

(a) Purpose. The purpose of the genuine progress indicator (“GPI”) is to measure the state of Vermont’s economic, environmental, and societal well-being as a supplement to the measurement derived from the gross state product and other existing statistical measurements.

(b) Definition. The GPI is an estimate of the net contributions of economic activity to the well-being and long-term prosperity of our state’s citizens, calculated through adjustments to gross state product that account for positive and negative economic, environmental, and social attributes of economic development.

(c) Intent. It is the intent of the general assembly that once established and tested, the GPI will assist state government in decision-making by providing an additional basis for budgetary decisions, including outcomes-based budgeting; by measuring progress in the application of policy and programs; and by serving as a tool to identify public policy priorities, including other measures such as human rights.

Sec. 2. GENUINE PROGRESS INDICATOR

(a) Establishment; maintenance.

(1) The secretary of administration shall negotiate and enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics of the University of Vermont (the “Gund Institute”) to work in collaboration to establish and test a genuine progress indicator (GPI). The memorandum shall provide the process by which the GPI is established and, once tested, how and by whom the GPI shall be maintained and updated. The memorandum shall further provide that in the establishment of the GPI, the secretary of administration, in collaboration with the Gund Institute, shall create a Vermont data committee made up of individuals with relevant expertise to inventory existing datasets and to make recommendations that may be useful to all data users in Vermont’s state government, nonprofit organizations, and businesses.

(2) The GPI shall use standard genuine progress indicator methodology and additional factors to enhance the indicator, which shall be adjusted periodically as relevant and necessary.

(b) Accessibility. Once established, the GPI and its underlying datasets that are submitted by the Gund Institute to the secretary of administration shall be posted on the state of Vermont website.

(c) Updating data. The secretary of administration shall cooperate in providing data as necessary in order to update and maintain the GPI.

Sec. 3. PROGRESS REPORTS

By January 15, 2013 and once every other year thereafter, the secretary of administration shall report to the house committees on government operations and on commerce and economic development and the senate committees on government operations and on economic development, housing, and general affairs a progress report regarding the maintenance, including the cost of maintenance, and usefulness of the GPI.

Sec. 4. DATASETS

Any datasets submitted to the secretary of administration pursuant to this act shall be considered a public record under chapter 5 of Title 1.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Approved: May 8, 2012