

1 H.763

2 Introduced by Representatives French of Randolph, Krowinski of Burlington,

3 Pearson of Burlington, and Ram of Burlington

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Finance; budget; principles; assessment of needs; pilot

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish
8 principles for the State budget; require a needs assessment be conducted to
9 inform the preparation of the budget; and create a pilot project for the
10 Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, relating to the new
11 budget provisions.

12 An act relating to assessing needs in preparing the State budget

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

14 Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:

15 § 304. PREPARATION OF BUDGET

16 (a) Upon receiving from the Secretary of Administration the statements and
17 estimates as provided in this chapter, the Governor-elect shall immediately
18 thereafter study and review the same and shall make such investigations as
19 may be necessary to enable him or her to prepare a budget setting forth such
20 recommendations as he or she may determine.

1 (b)(1) The Secretary of Administration shall furnish the Governor-elect
2 with complete information relative to the finances of the State and shall render
3 such assistance as requested in preparation of the budget.

4 (2) The Secretary of Administration shall specifically furnish the
5 Governor-elect with information regarding the needs assessment set forth in
6 section 306c of this chapter and shall assist the Governor-elect in addressing
7 unmet needs in Vermont.

8 Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 306b is added to read:

9 § 306b. PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE BUDGET

10 In accordance with the provisions of subsection 306a(b) of this chapter, the
11 State budget shall be developed and evaluated using an accountability system
12 with metrics based on the following human rights principles:

13 (1) Universality. State budget policies shall make measurable progress,
14 on an annual basis, in meeting the fundamental needs of all Vermont
15 communities and residents.

16 (2) Equity. State budget policies shall raise revenue in an equitable
17 manner, proportionate to ability to pay, and prioritize the needs of those who
18 are disadvantaged.

19 (3) Transparency. State budget information shall be readily accessible,
20 comprehensible, clearly connected to the purpose of the budget, and
21 disseminated proactively and in a timely manner.

1 (4) Accountability. State budget policies shall be guided by the
2 principles set forth in this section, using metrics that regularly and
3 comprehensively measure the state of unmet need in Vermont.

4 (5) Participation. The State shall support a process of direct and
5 meaningful public participation in the development and evaluation of budget
6 and revenue policies.

7 Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 306c is added to read:

8 § 306c. STATE BUDGET NEEDS ASSESSMENT

9 (a) A comprehensive set of needs assessments shall be carried out annually
10 to inform the preparation of the State budget. These assessments shall include
11 collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data using accurate
12 metrics developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and shall report
13 accurately on the state of fundamental human need in Vermont.

14 (b) Subject-matter experts from each relevant agency and department shall
15 develop and continuously refine a comprehensive set of metrics, derived from
16 the principles of the State budget set forth in section 306b of this chapter, that
17 accurately measures the state of unmet need in Vermont.

18 (c) The annual needs assessments produced under this section shall be
19 integrated into the State budget process by both the Executive and Legislative
20 Branch, linking budget line items to needs assessment data.

1 (d) The Secretary of Administration shall publish an annual report on
2 progress in meeting human needs, using the metrics described in subsection (b)
3 of this section and evaluating the results of initiatives intended to address
4 unmet needs.

5 Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND INDEPENDENT
6 LIVING; PEOPLES' BUDGET PILOT PROJECT

7 (a) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall
8 design and implement a pilot project that applies the principles of the State
9 budget, described in Sec. 2 of this act, 32 V.S.A. § 306b, to the Department's
10 budget in order to conduct needs assessments, which shall be used for the
11 purposes of Sec. 3 of this act, 32 V.S.A. § 306c.

12 (b) The Department's programs and services shall be based upon:

13 (1) the principles of the State budget, described in Sec. 2 of this act,
14 32 V.S.A. § 306b;

15 (2) information obtained directly from elders and people with
16 disabilities, and their families, guardians, and people who provide them
17 services;

18 (3) a comprehensive needs assessment of and demographic information
19 about elders and people with disabilities;

20 (4) information about existing services used by elders and people with
21 disabilities and their families;

1 (5) individual and population characteristics of unserved and
2 underserved elders and people with disabilities; and

3 (6) the reasons for any gaps between Department services and
4 community needs, in accordance with the system of care plan set forth in
5 18 V.S.A. § 8725.

6 (c) The pilot project shall include regular public meetings at each stage of
7 the Department's budget process. Recommendations made by the public shall
8 be considered in developing all aspects of the Department's budget.

9 (d) The Department shall receive necessary funding from the Agency of
10 Administration in order to design and implement the pilot project.

11 (e) The Department shall report quarterly to the DAIL Advisory Board on
12 the process and outcomes of the pilot project.

13 (f) The pilot project shall begin in June 2014 and end 12 months thereafter.
14 The Department shall submit to the General Assembly a final report on the
15 pilot project's process and its outcomes.

16 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on passage.