An act relating to reporting on population-level outcomes and indicators and on program-level performance measures

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

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

(a) This act is necessary for the General Assembly to obtain data-based information to gauge how well State government is working to achieve the population-level outcomes the General Assembly sets for Vermonters, and will assist the General Assembly in determining how best to spend taxpayer dollars.
(b) Evaluating the results of spending taxpayer dollars will allow the
General Assembly to be more forward-thinking, strategic, and responsive to
the long-term needs of Vermonters and allow the Executive Branch to consider
how the programs it administers could be further refined in order to produce
better results.

(c) Using the data-based information provided under this act will encourage
State government to continue to move steadily toward accountability and will
help educate the General Assembly and Executive Branch on how to be more
effective and accountable to Vermonters.

Sec. 2. CHIEF PERFORMANCE OFFICER; ANNUAL REPORT ON
POPULATION-LEVEL OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS

(a)(1) Annually, on or before July 30, the Chief Performance Officer within
the Agency of Administration shall report to the General Assembly on the
State’s progress in reaching the population-level outcomes for each area of
State government set forth in subsection (b) of this section by providing data
for the population-level indicators that are requested pursuant to the process set
forth in subsection (c) of this section.

(2) The report shall be provided in the form of an Accountability Report
Card that shall answer the following questions for each population-level
outcome using its related requested population-level indicators:
(A) How much did we do?
(B) How well did we do it?
(C) Is anyone better off?
(b)(1) Human services.
   (A) Outcome 1. Children, families, and individuals are engaged in
   and contribute to their community’s decisions and activities.
   (B) Outcome 2. Pregnant women and children thrive.
   (C) Outcome 3. Children are ready for school.
   (D) Outcome 4. Children succeed in school.
   (E) Outcome 5. Children live in safe, nurturing, stable, supported
   families.
   (F) Outcome 6. Youths choose healthy behaviors.
   (G) Outcome 7. Youths successfully transition to adulthood.
   (H) Outcome 8. Elders, people with disabilities, and individuals with
   mental health conditions live with dignity and independence in settings they
   prefer.
   (I) Outcome 9. Families and individuals live in safe and supportive
   communities.
   (J) Outcome 10. Adults lead healthy and productive lives.
(K) Outcome 11. Vermonters receive affordable and appropriate health care at the appropriate time, and health care costs are contained over time.

(L) Outcome 12. Families and individuals move out of poverty through education and advancement in employment.

(2) Corrections.

(A) Outcome 1. The number of people returned to prison for technical violations of probation or parole, while ensuring public safety, shall decrease.

(B) Outcome 2. The number of people coming into the corrections system shall decrease.

(C) Outcome 3. The number of nonviolent offenders diverted from prison into the community, while ensuring public safety and providing effective consequences for criminal behavior, shall increase.

(D) Outcome 4. Recidivism shall decrease.

(E) Outcome 5. A unified crime prevention and justice system shall be established.

(F) Outcome 6. Revenues realized within the corrections system from programs designed to develop skills of offenders shall increase.

(G) Outcome 7. Short-term lodgings in Department of Corrections facilities shall decrease.
(3) Education.

(A) Outcome 1. Increase electronic and distance learning opportunities that enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity.

(B) Outcome 2. Increase the secondary school graduation rates for all students.

(C) Outcome 3. Increase the aspiration, continuation, and completion rates for all students in connection with postsecondary education and training.

(D) Outcome 4. Increase administrative efficiencies within education governance in a manner that promotes student achievement.

(E) Outcome 5. Increase cost-effectiveness in delivery of support services for students with individualized education plans.

(F) Outcome 6. Increase the use of early intervention strategies that enable students to be successful in the general education environment and help avoid the later need for more expensive interventions.

(4) Regulatory.

(A) Outcome 1. The permitting and licensing processes achieve environmental standards, and are clear, timely, predictable, and coordinated between agencies and municipalities.
(B) Outcome 2. The permitting process enables applicants to
determine readily what permits and licenses are needed and what information
must be submitted to apply for those permits and licenses.

(C) Outcome 3. The permit and enforcement processes enable
citizens and visitors to the State of Vermont to understand and comply with the
laws protecting State natural and agricultural resources.

(D) Outcome 4. Permitting, licensing, and environmental protective
services are cost-effective and user-friendly.

(E) Outcome 5. The decision-making process is transparent, and
citizens understand and participate in the process.

(5) Economic development.

(A) Outcome 1. Vermont achieves a sustainable annual increase in
nonpublic sector employment and in median household income.

(B) Outcome 2. Vermont attains a statewide, state-of-the-art
telecommunications infrastructure.

(c) After consulting with the State agency having jurisdiction over an area
of State government set forth in subsection (b) of this section, a standing
committee of the General Assembly having jurisdiction over that area of State
government may submit to the Government Accountability Committee a
request that any population-level indicator related to that area of State
government be revised. If that request is approved by the Government
Accountability Committee, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, the State agency shall revise the population-level indicator in accordance with the request.

(d) As they determine to be necessary, the standing committees of the General Assembly having jurisdiction over the areas of State government set forth in subsection (b) of this section and the Government Accountability Committee shall review the population-level outcomes set forth in subsection (b) and make any recommendations to the General Assembly as to how those population-level outcomes should be revised.

Sec. 3. TRANSITIONAL POPULATION-LEVEL INDICATORS

Until any population-level indicators are requested pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 2(c) of this act, each area of State government set forth in Sec. 2(b) of this act and listed in this section shall have the following population-level indicators:

(1) Human services.

(A) percent of children at or below 200 percent of federal poverty level;

(B) rate of homelessness;

(C) rate of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults;

(D) percent of individuals and families living at different poverty levels;
(E) percent of women receiving prenatal and natal care;

(F) percent of low birth weight babies or preterm births;

(G) number of assessments of child abuse and neglect and percent of reports substantiated;

(H) rate of pregnant teenagers under 18 years of age;

(I) percent of students who report using alcohol, tobacco, or drugs within the last 30 days;

(J) percent of adults who exceed healthy weight;

(K) rate of infant mortality;

(L) percent of adults who smoke cigarettes; and

(M) number of minors under the supervision of the Department of Corrections.

(2) Corrections.

(A) rate of violent crime;

(B) number of people incarcerated; and

(C) rate of recidivism.

(3) Education.

(A) rate of high school graduation; and

(B) percent of participation in postsecondary education.

(4) Regulatory.

(A) processing time for permit applications and renewals;
(B) carbon dioxide per capita;
(C) electricity by fuel or power type; and
(D) percent of organic farm sales.

(5) Economic development.

(A) median household income;
(B) median house price;
(C) rate of unemployment;
(D) percent of residences and businesses with broadband access;
(E) percent of structurally-deficient bridges; and
(F) percent of water, sewer, and stormwater systems that meet federal
and State standards.

Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT; REPORT
ON PERFORMANCE MEASURE PILOT PROGRAM

Annually, on or before July 30, the Department of Finance and
Management shall submit to the General Assembly with the report set forth in
Sec. 2 of this act a report on its Performance Measure Pilot Program. The
report shall include the performance measure data collected by the pilot
participants.
Sec. 5. CHIEF PERFORMANCE OFFICER; RESULTS-BASED
ACCOUNTABILITY LIAISONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On or before November 15, 2014, the Chief Performance Officer within the
Agency of Administration shall designate an employee in each agency of State
government to be a results-based accountability liaison to the General
Assembly. A liaison designated under this section shall be responsible to
review with the General Assembly any of the population-level outcomes and
indicators for the areas of State government set forth in this act and any other
requests for results-based accountability information requested by the General
Assembly.

Sec. 6. QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORTS; TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

(a) The report requirement set forth in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 146,
Sec. H4 (Challenges for Change; quarterly reporting and implementation) is
temporarily suspended. The report requirement shall resume in 2017
beginning with the first quarterly report due for that year.

(b) The report required under Sec. 2 of this act (Chief Performance Officer;
annual report on population-level outcomes and indicators) shall no longer be
required upon the resumption of the report described in subsection (a) of this
section.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.