

deposited into the Higher Education Trust Fund in accordance with this subsection shall instead be reserved in the General Fund Balance Reserve.

Sec. C.107 [DELETED]

Sec. C.108 INTERIM STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING

A PUBLIC RETIREMENT PLAN

(a) Creation of Committee. There is created a Public Retirement Plan Study Committee to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a public retirement plan.

(b) Membership. The Public Retirement Plan Study Committee shall be composed of seven members as follows:

(1) the State Treasurer or designee;

(2) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

(3) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(4) an individual with private sector experience in the area of providing retirement products and financial services to small businesses, to be appointed by the Speaker;

(5) an individual with experience or expertise in the area of the financial needs of an aging population, to be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(6) a representative of employers, to be appointed by the Speaker; and

(7) a representative of employees who currently lack access to employer-sponsored retirement plans, to be appointed by the Committee on Committees.

(c) Powers and duties.

(1)(A) The Committee shall study the feasibility of establishing a public retirement plan, including the following:

(i) the access Vermont residents currently have to employer-sponsored retirement plans and the types of employer-sponsored retirement plans;

(ii) data and estimates on the amount of savings and resources Vermont residents will need for a financially secure retirement;

(iii) data and estimates on the actual amount of savings and resources Vermont residents will have for retirement, and whether those savings and resources will be sufficient for a financially secure retirement;

(iv) current incentives to encourage retirement savings, and the effectiveness of those incentives;

(v) whether other states have created a public retirement plan and the experience of those states;

(vi) whether there is a need for a public retirement plan in Vermont;

(vii) whether a public retirement plan would be feasible and effective in providing for a financially secure retirement for Vermont residents;

(viii) other programs or incentives the State could pursue in combination with a public retirement plan or, instead of such a plan, in order to encourage residents to save and prepare for retirement; and

(B) If the Committee determines that a public retirement plan is necessary, feasible, and effective, the Committee shall study:

(i) potential models for the structure, management, organization, administration, and funding of such a plan;

(ii) how to ensure that the plan is available to private sector employees who are not covered by an alternative retirement plan;

(iii) how to build enrollment to a level that enrollee costs can be lowered;

(iv) whether such a plan should impose any obligation or liability upon private sector employers; and

(v) any other issue the Committee deems relevant.

(2) The Committee shall have the assistance of the staff of the Office of the Treasurer, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

(d) Report. By January 15, 2015, the Committee shall report to the General Assembly its findings and any recommendations for legislative action. In its report, the Committee shall state its findings as to every factor set forth in subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section, whether it recommends that a public retirement plan be created, and the reasons for that recommendation. If the

Committee recommends that a public retirement plan be created, the Committee's report shall include specific recommendations as to the factors listed in subdivision (c)(1)(B) of this section.

(e) Meetings; term of Committee; chair. The Committee may meet no more than six times and shall cease to exist on January 15, 2015. The State Treasurer shall serve as Chair of the Committee and shall call the first meeting.

(f) Reimbursement. For attendance at meetings, members of the Committee who are not employees of the State of Vermont shall be reimbursed at the per diem rate set in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 and shall be reimbursed for mileage and travel expenses.

Sec. C.109 COMMITTEE ON CHILD PROTECTION

(a) There is created a Committee on Child Protection. The Committee shall be composed of nine members. Seven members of the Committee shall be members of the Senate, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees shall designate two Senators to serve as Co-Chairs of the Committee. Two members of the Committee shall be members of the House of Representatives; one shall be the Chair of the Committee on Judiciary or designee, and the other shall be the Chair of the Committee on Human Services or designee.

(b) The Committee shall investigate and evaluate Vermont's current system of child protection for the purpose of protecting children from abuse and neglect, including: