



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

4/20/2022

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H.293 – An act relating to creating the State Youth Council

As passed by the House

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0293/H-0293%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20House%20Unofficial.pdf>

Bill Summary

The bill proposes to create within the Department of Health (VDH) the State Youth Council to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policies that impact young people in Vermont.

It is estimated that per diem compensation and expenses could cost between \$25,000 to \$45,000 annually until the Council is repealed February 1, 2026. While the bill does not include an appropriation to VDH for these expenses, an appropriation would be needed.

Sec. 2 – State Youth Council

The Council would be composed of not more than 28 Vermont resident youths between 11 and 18 years of age at the time of appointment and would be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 16 meetings per calendar year. If the council were to have the maximum allowable membership (28) and meet the maximum amount of times eligible for per diem and expenses (16), it would cost \$56,560.00.¹

It is unlikely that every member will attend every meeting. Further the bill specifically allows for members to attend by electronic or other means without being physically present. In such cases we would assume that members would receive per diem compensation (\$50.00) but not reimbursement for expenses related to travel (\$76.25). As such, costs for per diem and expenses could be between \$25,000.00 and \$45,000.00 per year. Given that approximately 89% of the VDH budget are federal funds for specific purposes, it is unclear if these costs could be covered within their current general fund appropriation.

Additionally, the Council would have the administrative, technical, and legal support of VDH to assist with Council-related activities. VDH would not need additional staffing resources to support the Council.

¹ 28 members x 16 meetings x \$126.25 for per diem and expenses = \$56,560.00

Fiscal Summary

- \$25,000 to \$45,000 annually (until February 1, 2026)
- While the bill does not currently include an appropriation to VDH for per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses, it is unclear if these costs could be covered within its existing budget. As such an appropriation would be needed.