

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Bill Called Up

H. 227.

Senate bill of the following title was called up by Senator Sears, and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day:

An act relating to the Vermont Uniform Power of Attorney Act.

Bill Referred

Pursuant to Temporary Rule 44A, House bill of the following title:

H. 452. An act relating to expanding apprenticeship and other workforce opportunities.

Was referred to the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 153.

By Senators Vyhovsky and White,

An act relating to creating municipal and regional civilian oversight of law enforcement.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 154.

By Senators Hardy and Watson,

An act relating to the Vermont State Plane Coordinate System.

To the Committee on Transportation.

Governor's Veto Overridden

Senate Bill entitled:

S. 5. An act relating to affordably meeting the mandated greenhouse gas reductions for the thermal sector through efficiency, weatherization measures, electrification, and decarbonization.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, the pending question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the refusal of the Governor to approve it?, was decided in the affirmative on a roll call required by the Vermont Constitution, Yeas 20, Nays 10. (the necessary *override* two-thirds vote *having* been attained).

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Bray, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, *Sears, Vyhovsky, Watson, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Brock, Collamore, Ingalls, Mazza, Norris, Starr, Weeks, Westman, Williams, *Wrenner.

*Senator Sears explained his vote as follows:

“I truly believe that climate change is real and that even little Vermont has to play its part. I have given a lot of thought and done a lot of research on S.5 and have come to the conclusion that it truly is a feasibility study and nothing can move forward until the legislature and the Governor have supported it or determined that it would work.

“The hundreds of people that I have heard from, particularly senior citizens, are truly worried and scared. It will be our job to help alleviate those fears.

“Finally, we may see the same results as we did with single payer.”

*Senator Wrenner explained her vote as follows:

“S.5 is a plan that was authored by special interests to benefit foreign-owned energy companies who supply Vermonters with fracked gas (extracted with chemicals such as PFAS) and electricity made from burning wood from Vermont forests.

“If this bill were truly about green house gas reduction, biomass, biofuels and fracked gas would not get a pass.

“Instead, those without a seat at the table will pay to enrich those who did have one.”

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Baruth, the rules were suspended, and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 45.

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

An act relating to abusive litigation filed against survivors of domestic abuse, stalking, or sexual assault.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 461.

Senator Gulick, for the Committee on Education, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education laws.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Shared School District Data Management System * * *

Sec. 1. 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. E.500.1, as amended by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. E.500.5, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 15, and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.500.2, is further amended to read:

Sec. E.500.1. SHARED SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL DATA
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

(a) ~~Not later than December 31, 2024, all Vermont supervisory unions, supervisory districts, school districts, and independent technical center districts shall utilize the same school finance and financial data management system. The system shall be selected by the Agency of Education per State procurement guidelines. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

Sec. 2. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 16, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.500.3, is further amended to read:

Sec. 16. ~~PAUSE SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SHARED
SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL DATA MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM~~

Notwithstanding Sec. E.500.1 of 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No.

11, as amended, the mandatory implementation of the Shared School District Data Management System (SSDDMS) shall be ~~paused until July 1, 2023~~ permanently suspended, provided that:

(1) ~~the Agency of Education and its contractor for implementation of the system shall continue to support existing users and any new adopters, as of the date of enactment of this act, of the system; and , within the confines of the existing contract.~~

(2) ~~a supervisory union, supervisory district, school district, or independent technical center district may implement or leave SSDDMS during the pause period after consultation with the Agency of Education and upon approval by its governing body. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 3. REPEAL

2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 17, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.500.4 (Agency of Education report on the implementation of the Shared School District Data Management System), is repealed.

* * * National Guard Tuition Benefit Program * * *

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 2857 is amended to read:

§ 2857. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD TUITION BENEFIT PROGRAM

(a) Program creation. The Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program (Program) is created, under which a member of the Vermont National Guard (member) who meets the eligibility requirements in subsection (c) of this section is entitled to the following tuition benefit for up to full-time attendance:

(1) For courses at any Vermont State College institution or the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (UVM), the benefit shall be the in-state residence tuition rate for the relevant institution.

(2) For courses at any eligible Vermont private postsecondary institution, the benefit shall be the in-state tuition rate charged by UVM.

(3) For courses at an eligible training institution offering nondegree, certificate training, or continuing education programs, the benefit shall be the lower of the institution's standard tuition or the in-state tuition rate charged by UVM.

(4) For courses at a non-Vermont approved postsecondary education institution approved for federal Title IV funding where the degree program is not available in Vermont, the benefit shall be the in-state tuition rate charged by UVM.

* * *

* * * Home Study Program * * *

Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 166b is amended to read:

§ 166b. HOME STUDY PROGRAM

(a) Enrollment notice. ~~A home study program shall send a written enrollment notice to the Secretary whenever it intends to enroll a child. Enrollments in home study programs shall expire on July 1. If a home study program intends to re-enroll a child for the following school year, a new notice under this section is required and may be submitted at any time after March 1. A parent or legal guardian shall send the Secretary annual notice of intent to enroll the parent's or legal guardian's child in a home study program at least 10 business days prior to commencing home study. Such notice shall be submitted via a form developed by the Agency of Education.~~ A notice under this subsection shall include the following:

(1) The name~~s~~; age~~s~~; and date, month, and year of birth of the child.

(2) The names, mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, town of legal residence, and telephone numbers of the all parents or guardians of the child with legal custody who are legally authorized to make educational decisions for the student.

(3) ~~For each child enrolled during the preceding year, any assessment of progress required under subsection (d) of this section.~~ An attestation that the academic progress of each child enrolled in a home study program will be assessed at the end of each school year and that the parent or guardian will maintain the record of such assessments. Permitted means of assessment shall include:

(A) a standardized assessment, which may be administered by the local school district or a testing service, or administered in a manner approved by the testing company;

(B) a review of the student's progress by an individual who holds a current Vermont teacher's certificate;

(C) a parent or guardian report and portfolio to include a summary of what the student learned during the school year and at least four samples of student work;

(D) grades from an online academy or school; or

(E) evidence of passing of the GED.

(4) For each child not previously enrolled in a Vermont public school or

~~Vermont home study program, independent professional evidence on regarding whether the child has a disability. A comprehensive evaluation to establish eligibilities for special education is not required, but may be ordered by a hearing officer after a hearing under this section documented disability and how the disability may affect the student's educational progress in a home study program.~~

~~(5) Subject to the provisions of subsections (k) and (l) of this section, for each child being enrolled for the current year, a detailed outline or narrative that describes the content to be provided in each subject area of the minimum course of study, including any special services or adaptations to be made to accommodate any disability. Methods and materials to be used may be included but are not required. An attestation that each child being enrolled in home study will be provided the equivalent of at least 175 days of instruction in the minimum course of study per year, specifically:~~

~~(A) for a child who is younger than 13 years of age, the subject areas listed in section 906 of this title;~~

~~(B) for a child who is 13 years of age or older, the subject areas listed in subdivisions 906(b)(1), (2), (4), and (5) of this title; or~~

~~(C) for students with documented disabilities, a parent or guardian must attest to providing adaptations to support the student in the home study program.~~

~~(6) The names, addresses, telephone numbers, and signatures of the persons who will provide ongoing instruction in each subject area of the minimum course of study, as defined in subsection (i) of this section. [Repealed.]~~

~~(7) The signatures of all eustodial parents or guardians with legal custody who are legally authorized to make educational decisions for the student. In the alternative, the parent seeking enrollment may provide attestation of sole primary educational decision-making authority.~~

~~(b) Notice to home study programs Enrollment. Within 14 10 business days of receiving an following submission of a complete enrollment notice, the Secretary or designee shall send the home study program a written acknowledgment of receipt, which shall constitute sufficient enrollment verification for purposes of section 1121 of this title. The acknowledgment shall include a determination:~~

~~(1) either that the enrollment notice is complete and no further information is needed, or specifically identifying information required under subsection (a) of this section which is missing. If information is missing, the home study program shall provide the additional information in writing within~~

14 days; and [Repealed.]

~~(2) either that the child may be enrolled immediately or that the child may be enrolled 45 days after the enrollment notice was received. At any time before the child may be enrolled, the Secretary may order that a hearing be held. After notice of such a hearing is received, the child shall not be enrolled until after an order has been issued by the hearing officer to that effect. [Repealed.]~~

~~(c) Enrollment reports Withdrawal. Each home study program shall notify the Secretary within seven days of the day that any student ceases to be enrolled in the program. Within ten days of receiving any enrollment report, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate superintendent of schools. The parent or guardian shall notify the Secretary in writing within 10 business days following the date that any student is withdrawn from the student's home study program.~~

~~(d) Progress assessment. Each home study program shall assess annually the progress of each of its students. Progress shall be assessed in each subject area of the minimum course of study, as defined in subsection (i) of this section, by one or more of the following methods:~~

~~(1) A report in a form designated by the Secretary, by a teacher licensed in Vermont. In determining the form of the report, the Secretary shall consult with parents who have provided home study programs for their children. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Secretary to consult with parents on an individual basis regarding the form of a teacher report.~~

~~(2) A report prepared by the student's parents or instructor, or a teacher advisory service report from a publisher of a commercial curriculum, together with a portfolio of the student's work that includes work samples to demonstrate progress in each subject area in the minimum course of study.~~

~~(3) The complete results of a standardized achievement test approved by the Secretary, administered in a manner approved by the testing company, and scored in accordance with this subdivision. In selecting the list of tests to be approved, the Secretary shall:~~

~~(A) Consult with parents who have provided home study programs for their children. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Secretary to consult with parents on an individual basis regarding the test to be administered as a progress assessment for their own home study programs.~~

~~(B) Select at least four tests to be scored by a testing company, and at least four tests to be administered and scored by a teacher licensed in Vermont who is not the parent or legal guardian of the student. [Repealed.]~~

~~(e) Hearings before enrollment.— If the Secretary has information that creates a significant doubt about whether a home study program can or will provide a minimum course of study for a student who has not yet enrolled, the Secretary may call a hearing. At the hearing, the home study program shall establish that it has complied with this section and will provide the student with a minimum course of study. [Repealed.]~~

~~(f) Hearings after enrollment.— If the Secretary has information that reasonably could be expected to justify an order of termination under this section, he or she may call a hearing. At the hearing, the Secretary shall establish one or more of the following:~~

~~(1) the home study program has substantially failed to comply with the requirements of this section;~~

~~(2) the home study program has substantially failed to provide a student with the minimum course of study;~~

~~(3) the home study program will not provide a student with the minimum course of study. [Repealed.]~~

~~(g) Notice and procedure.— Notice of any hearing shall include a brief summary of the material facts and shall be sent to each parent or guardian and each instructor of the student or students involved who are known to the Secretary. The hearing shall occur within 30 days of the day that notice is given or sent. If a notice concerns a child not yet enrolled in a home study program, enrollment shall not occur until an order has been issued after the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by an impartial hearing officer appointed by the Secretary from a list approved by the State Board. At the request of the child's parent or guardian, the hearing officer shall conduct the hearing at a location in the vicinity of the home study program. [Repealed.]~~

~~(h) Order following hearing.— After hearing evidence, the hearing officer shall enter an order within ten working days. If the child is not enrolled, the order shall provide that the child be enrolled or that enrollment be disallowed. If the child is enrolled, the order shall provide that enrollment be continued or that the enrollment be terminated. An order shall take effect immediately. Unless the hearing officer provides for a shorter period, an order disallowing or terminating enrollment shall extend until the end of the following school year, as defined in this title. If the order is to disallow or terminate the enrollment, a copy shall be given to the appropriate superintendent of schools, who shall take appropriate action to ensure that the child is enrolled in a school as required by this title. Following a hearing, the Secretary may petition the hearing officer to reopen the case only if there has been a material change in circumstances.—[Repealed.]~~

~~(i) The minimum course of study required under this section shall be provided every school year, and the educational content provided shall be adapted in each area of study to the age and ability of each child and to any disability of the child. Nothing in this section requires that a home study program follow the program or methods used by the public schools. In this section, “minimum course of study” means:~~

~~(1) For a child who is younger than 13 years of age, the subject areas listed in section 906 of this title.~~

~~(2) For a child who is 13 years of age or older, the subject areas listed in subdivisions 906(b)(1), (2), (4), and (5) of this title, and other subject areas selected by the home study program. The child’s progress in the elective areas shall not be subject to the annual progress assessment. [Repealed.]~~

~~(j) Waiver. After the filing of the enrollment notice ~~or at a hearing~~, if the home study program is unable to comply with any specific requirements due to deep religious conviction shared by an organized group, the Secretary may waive such requirements if ~~he or she~~ the Secretary determines that the educational purposes of this section are being or will be substantially met.~~

~~(k) A Vermont home study program that has successfully completed the last two consecutive school years of home study with any enrolled child, provided those two years fall within the most recent five years, shall not thereafter be required to submit an annual detailed outline or narrative describing the content of the minimum course of study. For the purposes of this subsection, successful completion of a home study program shall mean that, in each of the two consecutive years, the program has not been disallowed by order of a hearing officer, the previously enrolled student made progress commensurate with age and ability in all subject areas of the minimum course of study, and the home study program has otherwise complied with the requirements of this section. Annual notice. A parent or guardian who has provided a complete enrollment notice as described in subsection (a) of this section shall notify the Secretary on or before the start of each following year of the parent’s or guardian’s intention to continue to provide instruction through a home study program via a form provided by the Agency of Education. This notice shall be provided at least 10 business days prior to the intended start date of the home study program.~~

~~(l) A home study program that has successfully completed two consecutive school years of home study as defined in subsection (k) of this section shall not be exempt from any other requirements of this section and shall annually submit a description of special services and adaptations to accommodate any disability of the child consistent with subsection (i) of this section. In addition, the program shall submit a detailed outline or narrative describing the content~~

~~to be provided in each subject area of the minimum course of study as part of its enrollment notice for each child who is 12 years of age at the time the enrollment notice is submitted. [Repealed.]~~

* * * Vermont Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory
Working Group * * *

Sec. 6. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 1, Sec. 1, as amended by 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 12 and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.500.6, is further amended to read:

Sec. 1. ETHNIC AND SOCIAL EQUITY STANDARDS ADVISORY
WORKING GROUP

* * *

(d) Appointment and operation.

* * *

(D) ~~The Working Group shall cease to exist on July 1, 2023~~
September 1, 2023.

(g) Duties of the Working Group.

(1) The Working Group shall review standards for student performance adopted by the State Board of Education under 16 V.S.A. § 164(9) and, on or before ~~December 31, 2022~~ June 30, 2023, recommend to the State Board updates and additional standards to recognize fully the history, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic groups and social groups. These recommended additional standards shall be designed to:

* * *

(i) Duties of the State Board of Education. The Board of Education shall, on or before ~~December 31, 2022~~ December 31, 2023, consider adopting ethnic and social equity studies standards into standards for student performance adopted by the State Board under 16 V.S.A. § 164(9) for students in prekindergarten through grade 12, taking into account the report submitted by the Working Group under subdivision (g)(1) of this section.

Sec. 7. ACT 1 TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

(a) Creation. There is created the Act 1 Technical Advisory Group (Advisory Group) to provide ongoing assistance regarding the work of the Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group (Working Group), created by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 1, as amended.

(b) Membership. The Technical Advisory Group shall be composed of the following 12 active members of the Working Group as of August 31, 2023,

designated or appointed by the following organizations:

(1) the Chairperson of the Working Group, the designee of the Vermont Human Rights Commission;

(2) the Vice Chairperson of the Working Group, the designee of the Vermont-National Education Association;

(3) the designee of the Vermont School Boards Association;

(4) the designee of the Vermont Superintendents Association;

(5) the designee of the Vermont Principals' Association with expertise in the development of school curriculum;

(6) the designee of the Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association;

(7) the Vermont Coalition for Ethnic and Social Equity in Schools appointee member from Outright Vermont;

(8) the Vermont-based, college-level faculty expert in ethnic studies;

(9) the designee of the Vermont Office of Racial Equity;

(10) the student appointee from Montpelier High School;

(11) the designee of the Vermont Independent Schools Association; and

(12) the designee of the Agency of Education.

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Group shall provide assistance to the General Assembly, the Agency of Education, and the State Board of Education on the following recommendations made by the Working Group:

(1) proposed revisions and comments to Agency of Education, State Board Rule 2000 Education Quality Standards (CVR 22-000-003);

(2) recommended updates and additional standards for student performance proposed to the State Board of Education pursuant to 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 1, Sec. 1, subdivision (g)(1);

(3) policy recommendations submitted to the General Assembly; and

(4) any other recommendations submitted to the General Assembly or State Board of Education.

(d) Assistance. The Advisory Group shall have the assistance of the Agency of Education for the purposes of scheduling meetings.

(e) Meetings.

(1) The Chair of the Advisory Group shall be the Chair of the Working Group as of August 31, 2023. If a member resigns before the Advisory Group

ceases to exist, the organization impacted by the resignation shall have the authority to appoint a replacement member in consultation with the Advisory Group. The Advisory Group shall meet as needed.

(2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(3) The Advisory Group shall cease to exist on January 31, 2024.

* * * Driver Education * * *

Sec. 8. REGIONAL STUDENT DRIVER EDUCATION CLINICS; PILOT PROJECT; REPORT; APPROPRIATION

(a) Pilot program. On or before December 15, 2023, the Agency of Education and the Department of Motor Vehicles, in partnership with interested school districts, shall establish a regional pilot student driver clinic program to provide the required minimum 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction by a certified driver education instructor as required by State Board of Education rule.

(1) The Agency and Department shall appoint one or more certified driver education instructors who shall assist in the development of the pilot program.

(2) The pilot program shall be designed to be implemented on a regional level, with an adequate number of programs provided to meet the reasonably anticipated needs of all public and approved independent schools participating in the pilot program. The Agency and Department shall partner with participating school districts to define regions.

(3) The pilot program shall meet all legal requirements of student driver education and training programs.

(4) The Agency and Department shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines necessary to implement the pilot program.

(b) Implementation. Regional pilot programs developed in accordance with the pilot program created under subsection (a) of this section shall begin offering student driver clinics on or before July 15, 2024.

(c) Reports.

(1) On or before December 15, 2023, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with information on the progress made in developing the pilot program created under this section and the implantation plan for pilot clinics to take place in the summer of 2024. The report shall also include an update on the certification process for driver education teachers and the steps the Agency has taken to address the workforce shortage in driver education. In reporting on the

workforce shortage, the Agency shall include any recommendations for legislative action.

(2) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency of Education shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with the results of the pilot program created under this section. The report shall include data relating to the number of participating school districts and participating students and the use of appropriated funds, and any recommendations for program expansion. If the recommendation is to expand the pilot program beyond the initial participating school districts, the report shall include any modifications and resources necessary for the expansion, as well as a timeline for such changes.

(d) Appropriation. Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d), the sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2024 for the purpose of developing a regional pilot student driver clinic program. Prior to using the funds appropriated under this subsection, the Agency shall consult with the Vermont State Highway Safety Office on whether the student driver clinic program created pursuant to this section is eligible for federal highway safety grant funds.

* * *Union School District Board Member Nominating Petitions * * *

Sec. 9. 16 V.S.A. § 711 is amended to read:

§ 711. VOTE TO ELECT INITIAL MEMBERS OF THE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

* * *

(d) Proposed unified union school district. Subject to the provisions of subsections 706(c) (existing union school districts) and 708(b) (necessary and advisable school districts) of this chapter, the voters of each school district identified as “necessary” or “advisable” shall vote whether to elect initial board members of a proposed unified union school district, as follows:

* * *

(3) At-large representation. When representation on the board of a proposed unified union school district is not apportioned or allocated to the potential towns within the proposed district pursuant to subdivision (1) (proportional to town population) or (2) (modified at-large) of this subsection and the board member is elected at-large:

(A) The voters of one or more school districts identified as “necessary” to formation of the proposed unified union school district shall file a petition nominating a candidate for the office of unified union school district board member at-large. A petition shall be valid only if:

* * *

(iii) the petition is signed by at least ~~60~~ 30 voters residing in one or more school districts identified as “necessary” to the formation of the proposed unified union school district or one percent of the legal voters residing in the combined “necessary” school districts that would form the proposed unified union school district, whichever is less;

* * *

(e) Proposed union elementary or union high school district. Subject to the provisions of subsections 706(c) (existing union school districts) and 708(b) (necessary and advisable school districts) of this chapter, the voters of each school district identified as “necessary” or “advisable” shall vote whether to elect initial board members of the proposed union school district, as follows:

* * *

(3) At-large representation. When representation on the board of a proposed union elementary or union high school district board is not apportioned or allocated to the potential member districts pursuant to subdivision (1) (proportional to town population) or (2) (modified at large) of this subsection and the board member is elected at-large:

(A) The voters of one or more school districts identified as “necessary” to the formation of the proposed union school district shall file a petition nominating a candidate for the office of union school district board member at-large. A petition shall be valid only if:

* * *

(iii) the petition is signed by at least ~~60~~ 30 voters residing in one or more school districts identified as “necessary” to the formation of the proposed union school district or one percent of the legal voters residing in the combined “necessary” school districts that would form the proposed union school district, whichever is less;

* * *

Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 730 is amended to read:

§ 730. UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS;
NOMINATION AND ELECTION; BOND

(a) If by Australian ballot. The provisions of this subsection (~~a~~) shall apply to a unified union school district that conducts elections for board membership by Australian ballot.

* * *

(2) Modified at-large model: allocation to town; at-large representation.

(A) When membership on the board of a unified union school district is allocated to each town within the district, but the allocation is not closely proportional to the town's relative population and the board member is elected at-large, the voters residing in any one or more of the towns within the district may file a petition nominating a candidate for board membership under the "modified at-large" model. A petition is valid only if:

* * *

(iii) the petition is signed by at least ~~60~~ 30 voters residing in the unified union school district or one percent of the legal voters in the district, whichever is less;

* * *

(3) At-large representation.

(A) When membership on a unified union school district board is not apportioned or allocated pursuant to subdivision (1) (proportional to town population) or (2) (modified at-large) of this subsection (a) and the board member is elected at large, the voters residing in any one or more of the towns within the district may file a petition nominating a candidate for at-large board membership. A petition is valid only if:

* * *

(iii) the petition is signed by at least ~~60~~ 30 voters residing in the unified union school district or one percent of the legal voters in the district, whichever is less;

* * *

Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 748 is amended to read:

§ 748. UNION ELEMENTARY AND UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEMBERS; NOMINATION AND ELECTION; BOND

(a) If by Australian ballot. The provisions of this subsection (~~a~~) shall apply to a union elementary or union high school district that conducts elections for board membership by Australian ballot.

* * *

(2) Modified at-large model: allocation to town; at-large representation.

(A) When membership on the board of a union elementary or union high school district is allocated to each member district, but the allocation is not closely proportional to the member district's population and the board member is elected at-large, the voters residing in any one or more of the

member districts may file a petition nominating a candidate for board membership under the “modified at-large” model. A petition is valid only if:

* * *

(iii) the petition is signed by at least ~~60~~ 30 voters residing in the union elementary or union high school district or one percent of the legal voters in the district, whichever is less;

* * *

(3) At-large representation.

(A) When membership on the board of a union elementary or union high school district is not apportioned or allocated pursuant to subdivision (1) (proportional to town population) or (2) (modified at-large) of this subsection (a) (Australian ballot) and the board member is elected at large, the voters residing in any one or more of the member districts may file a petition nominating a candidate for at-large board membership. A petition is valid only if:

* * *

(iii) the petition is signed by at least ~~60~~ 30 voters residing in the union elementary or union high school district or one percent of the legal voters in the district, whichever is less;

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 6 (Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group) and this section shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 7 (Act 1 Technical Advisory Group) shall take effect on September 1, 2023.

(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Perchlik, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Education.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Education?, Senator Cummings moved to amend the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Education, by striking out Sec. 8, regional student driver education clinics; pilot project; report; appropriation, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 8. [Deleted.]

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Education, as amended, was agreed to and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposals of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 476.

Senator Vyhovsky, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to law enforcement officer training laws.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Model Policy * * *

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2365 is amended to read:

§ 2365. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVOLVING LAW ENFORCEMENT MODEL POLICY

* * *

(d)(1) On or before July 1, 2024, every State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency shall adopt the Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Model Policy issued by the Vermont Law Enforcement Advisory Board.

(2) On or before July 1, 2024, every constable who exercises law enforcement authority pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1936a and is certified pursuant to section 2358 of this title shall adopt the Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Model Policy issued by the Vermont Law Enforcement Advisory Board.

(3) Agencies and constables referenced in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall adopt any updated Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Model Policy issued by Vermont Law Enforcement Advisory

Board within six months following the issuance.

Sec. 2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVOLVING LAW ENFORCEMENT
MODEL POLICY REVISION

(a) On or before January 1, 2024, the Vermont Law Enforcement Advisory Board, after receiving input from interested stakeholders, shall issue an updated Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Model Policy.

(b) The updated Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Model Policy shall:

(1) address domestic violence survivors' needs and leverage best practices in awareness, prevention, and investigation of domestic violence;

(2) identify existing support offered to any law enforcement agency employee or officer who is the victim of or the person who committed domestic violence;

(3) identify new means of supporting law enforcement agency employees or officers who are the victims of or the persons who committed domestic violence;

(4) develop processes to protect the privacy of agency employees and officers who are the victims of domestic violence and to maintain the confidentiality of any information shared by these individuals; and

(5) amend or replace language found in 2010 Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Model Policy, section 3.8 (Member Responsibilities), subdivision (4) to require a law enforcement agency employee or officer subject to a final relief from abuse order pursuant to 15 V.S.A. § 1103 to immediately surrender all service weapons.

* * * Officer Misconduct and Transparency of Information * * *

Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 2401 is amended to read:

§ 2401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(2) “Category B conduct” means gross professional misconduct amounting to actions on duty or under authority of the State, or both, that involve willful failure to comply with a State-required policy, or substantial deviation from professional conduct as defined by the law enforcement agency’s policy or if not defined by the agency’s policy, then as defined by Council policy, and shall include:

* * *

(H) while on duty or off duty, attempting to cause or causing physical harm to a family or household member, or placing a family or household member in fear of imminent serious physical harm; or

(I) while on duty or off duty, a violation of the Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Model Policy adopted pursuant to section 2365 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 2407 is amended to read:

§ 2407. ~~LIMITATION ON COUNCIL SANCTIONS FIRST OFFENSE OF CATEGORY B CONDUCT~~

~~(a) Category B conduct; first offense. — If a law enforcement agency conducts a valid investigation of a complaint alleging that a law enforcement officer committed a first offense of Category B conduct, the Council shall take no action, except that the Council may take action for a first offense under subdivision 2401(2)(C) (excessive use of force under authority of the State); 2401(2)(F) (placing a person in a chokehold), or 2401(2)(G) (failing to intervene and report to a supervisor when an officer observes another officer placing a person in a chokehold or using excessive force) of this chapter.~~

Council sanctions; first offense of Category A and certain Category B conduct. After a valid investigation of Category A and Category B conduct made pursuant to section 2404 of this title concludes, the Council may impose a sanction for a first offense of:

(1) Category A conduct as defined in subsection 2401(1) of this title; or

(2) the following instances of Category B conduct as defined in subsection 2401(2) of this title:

(A) sexual harassment involving physical contact pursuant to subdivision 2401(2)(A) of this title;

(B) excessive use of force under authority of the State pursuant to subdivision 2401(2)(C) of this title;

(C) placing a person in a chokehold pursuant to subdivision 2401(2)(F) of this title;

(D) failing to intervene and report to a supervisor when an officer observes another officer placing a person in a chokehold or using excessive force pursuant to subdivision 2401(2)(G) of this title;

(E) attempting to cause or causing physical harm to a family or household member, or placing a family or household member in fear of

imminent serious physical harm pursuant to subdivision 2401(2)(H) of this title; or

(F) a violation of the Domestic Violence Involving Law Enforcement Model Policy adopted pursuant to section 2365 of this title pursuant to subdivision 2401(2)(I) of this title.

(b) Council action; second or subsequent offense of certain other Category B conduct. After a valid investigation of Category B conduct made pursuant to section 2404 of this title concludes, the Council may impose a sanction for an offense of Category B conduct not specified in subdivision (a)(2) of this section only for the second or subsequent offense.

(c) “Offense” defined. As used in this section, an “offense” means any offense committed by a law enforcement officer during the course of his or her the law enforcement officer’s certification, and includes any offenses committed during employment at a current or previous law enforcement agency.

Sec. 4a. VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL AUTHORITY;
REPORT

On or before December 15, 2023, the Vermont Criminal Justice Council, in consultation with the Department of Human Resources, the Office of Professional Regulation, and a nationally recognized organization that is a subject matter expert in the field of law enforcement professional regulation, shall report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations on the following:

(1) whether the current statutes pertaining to unprofessional conduct in 20 V.S.A. §§ 2401–2411 should be amended to apply to all off-duty conduct of law enforcement officers;

(2) whether the current statutes pertaining to unprofessional conduct in 20 V.S.A. §§ 2401–2411 should be amended to adjust the scope of Category B conduct that the Vermont Criminal Justice Council may take action on for a first offense; and

(3) any other recommendations as deemed appropriate by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council.

Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2409 is amended to read:

§ 2409. ACCESSIBILITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

* * *

(g)(1) The Council shall collect aggregate data on the number of:

(A) complaints received that involve domestic or sexual violence;
and

(B) the number of complaints for Category A and B conduct involving domestic or sexual violence that resulted in the filing of charges or stipulations or the taking of disciplinary action.

(2) The Council shall provide a report of the aggregate data collected pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to the House Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations annually on or before January 15.

* * * Vermont Criminal Justice Council Domestic Violence Training Position
Funding * * *

Sec. 5a. 20 V.S.A. § 2365 is amended to read:

§ 2365. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING

* * *

(c) The Vermont Police Academy shall employ a domestic violence trainer for the sole purpose of training Vermont law enforcement and related practitioners on issues related to domestic violence. ~~Funding for this position shall be transferred by the Center for Crime Victim Services from the Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund created by 13 V.S.A. § 5360.~~

Sec. 5b. 13 V.S.A. § 5360 is amended to read:

§ 5360. DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SPECIAL FUND

A Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund is established, to be managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 and administered by the Center for Crime Victim Services created in section 5361 of this title. The revenues of the Fund shall consist of that portion of the additional surcharge on penalties and fines imposed by section 7282 of this title deposited in the Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund and that portion of the town clerks' fee for issuing and recording civil marriage or civil union licenses in 32 V.S.A. § 1712(1) deposited in the Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund. The Fund may be expended by the Center for Crime Victim Services for budgeted grants to the Vermont Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence ~~and for the Criminal Justice Training Council position dedicated to domestic violence training, pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2365(e).~~

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Sears, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bills Passed in Concurrence with Proposals of Amendment

House bills of the following titles were read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposals of amendment:

H. 157. An act relating to the Vermont basic needs budget.

H. 291. An act relating to the creation of the Cybersecurity Advisory Council.

Bill Passed in Concurrence

H. 386.

House bill of the following title:

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Brattleboro.

Was read the third time and passed in concurrence, on a roll call, Yeas 18, Nays 10.

Senator Collamore having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Bray, Campion, Clarkson, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Brock, Chittenden, Collamore, Ingalls, Mazza, Norris, Sears, Starr, Westman, Williams.

Those Senators absent and not voting were: Weeks, Wrenner.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 470.

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposals of amendment:

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to alcoholic beverage laws.

Third Reading Ordered

H. 282.

Senator Hardy, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Finance, to which was referred the bill, reported that the bill out to pass in concurrence.

Senator Perchlik, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred the bill, reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 31.

Senator Bray, for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to aquatic nuisance control.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee; report, in subdivision (f)(1), by striking out "July 31, 2023" where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof September 1, 2023

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Lyons, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House that the

bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 1, Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee; report, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(b) Membership. The Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

(4) a scientist from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, appointed by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife;

(5) a scientist from the Department of Environmental Conservation, appointed by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation; and

(6) two scientists or researchers from the University of Vermont, appointed by the President of the University of Vermont, one with expertise in the potential human health impacts related to the invasives and control eradication and one with expertise in aquatic biology, including flora, fauna, and ecosystem health.

Second: In Sec. 1, Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee; report, by striking out subsection (g) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(g) Compensation and reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

(2) Other members of the Study Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and the recommendation of proposal of amendment of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy was amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations.

Thereupon, the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, as amended, was agreed to and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 62.

Senator Gulick, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to the interstate Counseling Compact.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 26 V.S.A. chapter, subchapter 2, by inserting a section 3275 before section 3275a to read as follows:

§ 3275. COUNSELING COMPACT; ADOPTION

This subchapter is the Vermont adoption of the Counseling Compact. The form, format, and text of the Compact have been conformed to the conventions of the Vermont Statutes Annotated. It is the intent of the General Assembly that this subchapter be interpreted as substantively the same as the Counseling Compact that is enacted by other Compact party states.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Finance, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Senator Perchlik, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

The President *pro tempore* Assumes the Chair
Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 67.

Senator Watson, for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to household products containing hazardous substances.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Thousands of household products sold in the State contain substances designated as hazardous under State or federal law.

(2) Vermont's hazardous waste rules establish specific requirements for the management of hazardous waste, including a prohibition on disposal in landfills.

(3) Leftover household products, known as household hazardous waste (HHW), are regulated through a requirement that municipal solid waste management entities (SWMEs) include provisions in solid waste implementation plans for the management and diversion of unregulated hazardous waste. The State solid waste management plan also requires the SWMEs to each hold a minimum of two HHW collection events every year.

(4) Many SWMEs already offer more than two HHW collection events, and seven of the SWMEs have established permanent facilities for the regular collection of HHW.

(5) HHW collection events and permanent facilities are expensive to operate, and SWMEs spend approximately \$2.2 million a year to manage HHW, costs that are subsequently passed on to the residents of Vermont through taxes, fees, or disposal charges.

(6) As a result of the failure to divert HHW, it is estimated that 855 tons or more per year of HHW are being disposed of in landfills.

(7) There is general agreement among the SWMEs and the Agency of Natural Resources that additional collection sites and educational and informational activities are necessary to capture more of the HHW being disposed of in landfills.

(8) Funding constraints are a current barrier to new collection sites and educational and informational activities.

(9) HHW released into the environment can contaminate air, groundwater, and surface waters, thereby posing a significant threat to the environment and public health.

(10) To improve diversion of HHW from landfills, reduce the financial burden on SWMEs and taxpayers, reduce the cost of the overall system of managing HHW, and lessen the environmental and public health risk posed by improperly disposed of HHW, the State shall implement a program to require the manufacturers of household products containing a hazardous substance to implement a stewardship organization to collect household products containing a hazardous substance free of charge to the public.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. chapter 164B is added to read:

CHAPTER 164B. COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS

§ 7181. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Agency” means the Agency of Natural Resources.

(2) “Consumer product” means any product that is regularly used or purchased to be used for personal, family, or household purposes.

(3) “Covered entity” means any person who presents to a collection facility or event that is included in an approved collection plan any number of covered household hazardous products, with the exception of large quantity generators or small quantity generators as those terms are defined in the Agency of Natural Resources’ Vermont Hazardous Waste Regulations.

(4)(A) “Covered household hazardous product” means a consumer product offered for retail sale that is contained in the receptacle in which the product is offered for retail sale, if the product has any of the following characteristics:

(i) the product or a component of the product is a hazardous waste under subchapter 2 of the Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, regardless of the status of the generator of the hazardous waste;
or

(ii) the product is a gas cylinder.

(B) “Covered household hazardous product” does not mean any of the following:

-
- (i) a primary or rechargeable battery;
 - (ii) a lamp that contains mercury;
 - (iii) a thermostat that contains mercury;
 - (iv) architectural paint as that term is defined in section 6672 of this title;
 - (v) a covered electronic device as that term is defined in section 7551 of this title;
 - (vi) a pharmaceutical drug;
 - (vii) citronella candles;
 - (viii) flea and tick collars;
 - (ix) pesticides required to be registered with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets;
 - (x) products that are intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled on, sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body or any part of a human for cleansing, moisturizing, sun protection, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering appearance, unless designated as a hazardous material or a hazardous waste by the Secretary of Natural Resources; or
 - (xi) gas cylinders determined by the Secretary by rule not to pose an unacceptable risk to human health, solid waste facility operation, or the environment, and which are not hazardous waste.

(5)(A) “Gas cylinder” means:

- (i) any nonrefillable cylinder and its contents supplied to a consumer for personal, family, or household use and shall include those containing flammable pressurized gas, spray foam insulating products, single-use and rechargeable handheld fire extinguishers, helium, or carbon dioxide, of any size not exceeding any cylinder with a water capacity of 50 pounds, including seamless cylinders and tubes, welded cylinders, and insulated cylinders intended to contain helium, carbon dioxide, or flammable materials such as propane, butane, or other flammable compressed gasses; or
- (ii) refillable cylinders containing propane for personal, family, or household use not exceeding a water capacity of one pound.

(B) “Gas cylinder” does not include any medical or industrial-grade cylinder.

(6)(A) “Manufacturer” means a person who:

(i) manufactures or manufactured a covered household hazardous product under its own brand or label for sale in the State;

(ii) sells in the State under its own brand or label a covered household hazardous product produced by another supplier;

(iii) owns a brand that it licenses or licensed to another person for use on a covered household hazardous product sold in the State;

(iv) imports into the United States for sale in the State a covered household hazardous product manufactured by a person without a presence in the United States;

(v) manufactures a covered household hazardous product for sale in the State without affixing a brand name; or

(vi) assumes the responsibilities, obligations, and liabilities of a manufacturer as defined under subdivisions (i) through (v) of this subdivision (6)(A), provided that the Secretary may enforce the requirements of this chapter against a manufacturer defined under subdivisions (i) through (v) of this subdivision (6)(A) if a person who assumes the manufacturer's responsibilities fails to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

(B) "Manufacturer" does not mean a person set forth under subdivisions (A)(i)-(vi) of this subdivision (6) if the person manufactures, sells, licenses, or imports less than \$5,000.00 of covered household hazardous products in the United States in a program year and is registered with the Secretary.

(7) "Orphan covered product" means a covered household hazardous product for which no manufacturer is participating in a stewardship organization pursuant to section 7182 of this title.

(8) "Program year" means the period from January 1 through December 31.

(9) "Retailer" means a person who sells a covered household hazardous product in the State through any means, including a sales outlet, a catalogue, the telephone, the Internet, or any electronic means.

(10) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Natural Resources.

(11) "Sell" or "sale" means any transfer for consideration of title or of the right to use by lease or sales contract a covered household hazardous product to a person in the State of Vermont. "Sell" or "sale" does not include the sale, resale, lease, or transfer of a used covered household hazardous product or a manufacturer's wholesale transaction with a distributor or a retailer.

(12) “Stewardship organization” means a legal entity such as an organization, association, or entity that has developed a system, method, or other mechanism that assumes the responsibilities, obligations, and liabilities under this chapter of multiple manufacturers of covered household hazardous products and that is:

(A) exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

(B) created by a group of producers to implement a collection plan in accordance with section 7183 of this title.

§ 7182. SALE OF COVERED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS;
STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION

(a) Sale prohibited. Beginning six months after a final decision on the adequacy of a collection plan by the Secretary, a manufacturer of a covered household hazardous product shall not sell, offer for sale, or deliver to a retailer for subsequent sale a covered household hazardous product unless all the following have been met:

(1) The manufacturer is participating in a stewardship organization implementing an approved collection plan.

(2) The name of the manufacturer, the manufacturer’s brand, and the name of the covered household hazardous product are submitted to the Agency of Natural Resources by a stewardship organization and listed on the stewardship organization’s website as covered by an approved collection plan.

(3) The stewardship organization in which the manufacturer participates has submitted an annual report consistent with the requirements of section 7185 of this title.

(4) The stewardship organization in which the manufacturer participates has conducted a plan audit consistent with the requirements of subsection 7185(b) of this title.

(b) Stewardship organization registration requirements.

(1) On or before January 1, 2025 and annually thereafter, a stewardship organization shall file a registration form with the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide the registration form to the stewardship organization. The registration form shall include:

(A) a list of the manufacturers participating in the stewardship organization;

(B) a list of the brands of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;

(C) a list of the covered household hazardous products of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;

(D) the name, address, and contact information of a person responsible for ensuring compliance with this chapter;

(E) a description of how the stewardship organization meets the requirements of subsection 7184(b) of this title, including any reasonable requirements for participation in the stewardship organization; and

(F) the name, address, and contact information of a person for a nonmember manufacturer to contact regarding how to participate in the stewardship organization to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.

(2) A renewal of a registration without changes may be accomplished through notifying the Agency of Natural Resources on a form provided by the Agency.

§ 7183. COLLECTION PLANS

(a) Collection plan required. Prior to July 1, 2025, any stewardship organization registered with the Secretary as representing manufacturers of covered household hazardous products shall coordinate and submit to the Secretary for review one collection plan for all manufacturers.

(b) Collection plan; minimum requirements. Each collection plan shall include, at a minimum, all of the following requirements:

(1) List of participants. A list of the manufacturers, brands, and products participating in the collection plan and a methodology for adding and removing manufacturers and notifying the Agency of new participants.

(2) Free statewide collection of covered household hazardous products. The collection program shall provide for free, convenient, and accessible statewide opportunities for the collection from covered entities of covered household hazardous products, including orphan covered products. A stewardship organization shall accept all covered household hazardous products collected from a covered entity and shall not refuse the collection of a covered household hazardous product, including orphan covered household products, based on the brand or manufacturer of the covered household hazardous product unless specifically exempt from this requirement. The collection program shall also provide for the payment of collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous products. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials.

(3) Convenient collection location. The stewardship organization shall develop a collection program that allows all municipal household hazardous waste collection programs to opt to be a part of the collection plan, including collection events and facilities offered by solid waste planning entities. The plan shall make efforts to site points of collection equitably across all regions of the State to allow for convenient and reasonable access of all Vermonters to collection facilities or collection events.

(4) Public education and outreach. The collection plan shall include an education and outreach program that shall include a website and may include media advertising, retail displays, articles and publications, and other public educational efforts. Outreach and education shall be suitable for the State's diverse ethnic populations, through translated and culturally appropriate materials, including in-language and targeted outreach. Public education and outreach should include content to increase meaningful participation by environmental justice focus populations as required by 3 V.S.A. chapter 72. During the first year of program implementation and two years after adoption of the collection plan, each stewardship organization shall carry out a survey of public awareness regarding the requirements of the program established under this chapter that can identify communities that have disparities in awareness and need more outreach. Each stewardship organization shall share the results of the public awareness surveys with the Secretary. If multiple stewardship organizations are implementing plans approved by the Secretary, the stewardship organizations shall coordinate in carrying out their education and outreach responsibilities under this subdivision and shall include in their annual reports to the Secretary a summary of their coordinated education and outreach efforts. The education and outreach program and website shall notify the public of the following:

(A) that there is a free collection program for covered household hazardous products;

(B) the location and hours of operation of collection points and how a covered entity can access this collection program;

(C) the special handling considerations associated with covered household hazardous products; and

(D) source reduction information for consumers to reduce leftover covered household products.

(5) Compliance with appropriate environmental standards. In implementing a collection plan, a stewardship organization shall comply with all applicable laws related to the collection, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste. A stewardship organization shall comply with any special

handling or disposal standards established by the Secretary for covered household hazardous products or for the collection plan of the manufacturer.

(6) Method of disposition. The collection plan shall describe how covered household hazardous products will be managed in the most environmentally and economically sound manner, including following the waste-management hierarchy. The management of covered household hazardous products under the collection plan shall use management activities in the following priority order: source reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal. Collected covered household hazardous products shall be recycled when technically and economically feasible.

(7) Performance goals. A collection plan shall include:

(A) A performance goal for covered household hazardous products determined by the number of total participants at collection events and facilities listed in the collection plan during a program year divided by the total number of households. The number of households shall include seasonal households. The calculation methodology for the number of households shall be included in the plan.

(B) At a minimum, the collection performance goal for the first approved plan shall be an annual participation rate of five percent of the households for every collection program based on the number of households the collection program serves. After the initial approved program plan, the stewardship organization shall propose performance goals for subsequent program plans. The Secretary shall approve the performance goals for the plan at least every five years. The stewardship organization shall use the results of the most recent waste composition study required under 6604 of this title and other relevant factors to propose the performance goals of the collection plan. If a stewardship organization does not meet its performance goals, the Secretary may require the stewardship organization to revise the collection plan to provide for one or more of the following: additional public education and outreach, additional collection events, or additional hours of operation for collection sites. A stewardship organization is not authorized to reduce or cease collection, education and outreach, or other activities implemented under an approved plan on the basis of achievement of program performance goals.

(8) Collection plan funding. The collection plan shall describe how the stewardship organization will fund the implementation of the collection plan and collection activities under the plan, including the costs for education and outreach, collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous product. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event

contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials. The collection plan shall include how municipalities will be compensated for all costs attributed to collection of covered household hazardous products. The Secretary shall resolve disputes relating to compensation.

(c) Term of collection plan. A collection plan approved by the Secretary under section 7187 of this title shall have a term not to exceed five years, provided that the stewardship organization remains in compliance with the requirements of this chapter and the terms of the approved collection plan.

(d) Collection plan implementation. Stewardship organizations shall implement the collection plan on or before six months after the date of a final decision by the Secretary on the adequacy of the collection plan.

§ 7184. STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Participation in a stewardship organization. A manufacturer shall meet the requirements of this chapter by participating in a stewardship organization that undertakes the responsibilities under sections 7182, 7183, and 7185 of this title.

(b) Qualifications for a stewardship organization. To qualify as a stewardship organization under this chapter, an organization shall:

(1) commit to assume the responsibilities, obligations, and liabilities of all manufacturers participating in the stewardship organization;

(2) not create unreasonable barriers for participation in the stewardship organization; and

(3) maintain a public website that lists all manufacturers and manufacturers' brands and products covered by the stewardship organization's approved collection plan.

§ 7185. ANNUAL REPORT; COLLECTION PLAN AUDIT

(a) Annual report. Not later than 18 months after the date a collection plan has been implemented, and annually thereafter, a stewardship organization of manufacturers of covered household hazardous products shall submit a report to the Secretary that contains all of the following:

(1) A description of the collection program.

(2) The volume or weight by hazard category, as defined by the Secretary, of covered household hazardous products collected, the volume or weight of covered household hazardous products collected at each collection facility or collection event, the disposition of the collected covered household hazardous products, and the number of covered entities participating at each

collection facility or collection event from which the covered household hazardous products were collected.

(3) The name and address of all the recycling and disposal facilities where the covered household hazardous products are collected and delivered and deposited.

(4) The weight or volume by hazard category of covered household hazardous products sold in the State in the previous calendar year by a manufacturer participating in a stewardship organization's collection plan. Sales data provided under this section shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential. Confidential information shall be redacted from any final public report. If manufacturers can demonstrate that they do not have Vermont specific data, the stewardship organization may use national data prorated to Vermont based upon Vermont's population.

(5) A comparison of the collection plan's performance goals, including participation rate, compared to the actual performance and how the program will be improved if the performance goals are not met.

(6) A description of the methods used to reduce, reuse, collect, transport, recycle, and process the covered household hazardous products.

(7) The cost of implementing the collection plan, including the costs of administration, collection, transportation, recycling, disposal, and education and outreach.

(8) A description and evaluation of the success of the education and outreach materials. If multiple stewardship organizations are implementing the collection plan approved by the Secretary, the stewardship organizations shall include a summary of their coordinated education and outreach efforts.

(9) Recommendations for any changes to the program.

(b) Collection plan audit. On or before September 1, 2030 and every five years thereafter, a stewardship organization of manufacturers of covered household hazardous products shall hire an independent third party to audit the collection plan and the plan's operation. The auditor shall examine the effectiveness of the program in collecting and disposing of covered household hazardous products. The auditor shall examine the cost-effectiveness of the program and compare it to that of collection programs for covered household hazardous products in other jurisdictions. The auditor shall examine the effectiveness of the plan in satisfying the requirement of this chapter that all Vermonters have convenient and reasonable access to collection facilities or collection events. The auditor shall make recommendations to the Secretary on ways to increase the program's efficacy and cost-effectiveness.

(c) Public posting. A stewardship organization shall post a report or audit required under this section to the website of the stewardship organization.

§ 7186. ANTITRUST; CONDUCT AUTHORIZED

(a) Activity authorized. A manufacturer, group of manufacturers, or stewardship organization implementing or participating in an approved collection plan under this chapter for the collection, transport, processing, and end-of-life management of covered household hazardous products is individually or jointly immune from liability for conduct under State laws relating to antitrust, restraint of trade, unfair trade practices, and other regulation of trade or commerce under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 1 to the extent that the conduct is reasonably necessary to plan, implement, and comply with the stewardship organization's chosen system for managing discarded covered household hazardous products.

(b) Limitations on antitrust activity. Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to an agreement among producers, groups of manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, or stewardship organizations affecting the price of covered household hazardous products or any agreement restricting the geographic area in which or customers to whom covered household hazardous products shall be sold.

§ 7187. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Review and approve collection plans. The Secretary shall review and approve or deny collection plans submitted under section 7183 of this title according to the public notice and comment requirements of section 7714 of this title.

(b) Criteria for plan approval.

(1) The Secretary shall approve a collection plan if the Secretary finds that the collection plan:

(A) complies with the requirements of subsection 7183(b) of this title;

(B) provides adequate notice to the public of the collection opportunities available for covered household hazardous products;

(C) ensures that collection of covered household hazardous products will occur in an environmentally sound fashion that is consistent with the law or with any special handling requirements adopted by the Secretary;

(D) promotes the collection and disposal of covered household hazardous products; and

(E) is reasonably expected to meet performance goals and

convenience standards.

(2) If a manufacturer or a stewardship organization fails to submit a plan that is acceptable to the Secretary because it does not meet the requirements of this chapter, the Secretary shall modify the submitted plan to make it conform to the requirements of this chapter and place the modified draft plan on notice pursuant to section 7714 of this title.

(c) Collection plan amendment. The Secretary, in the Secretary's discretion or at the request of a manufacturer or a stewardship organization, may require a stewardship organization to amend an approved collection plan. Collection plan amendments shall be subject to the public input provisions of section 7717 of this title.

(d) Registrations. The Secretary shall accept, review, and approve or deny registrations required by this chapter. The Secretary may revoke a registration of a stewardship organization when the actions of the stewardship organization are unreasonable, unnecessary, or contrary to the requirements or the policy of this chapter. The Secretary shall only approve one stewardship organization for the first collection plan.

(e) Supervisory capacity. The Secretary shall act in a supervisory capacity over the actions of a stewardship organization registered under this section. In acting in this capacity, the Secretary shall review the actions of the stewardship organization to ensure that they are reasonable, necessary, and limited to carrying out requirements of and policy established by this chapter.

(f) Special handling requirements. The Secretary may adopt by rule special handling requirements for the collection, transport, and disposal of covered household hazardous products.

§ 7188. OTHER DISPOSAL PROGRAMS

A municipality or other public agency shall not require covered entities to use public facilities to dispose of covered household hazardous products to the exclusion of other lawful programs available. A municipality and other public agencies are encouraged to work with manufacturers to assist them in meeting their collection and disposal obligations under this chapter. Nothing in this chapter prohibits or restricts the operation of any program collecting and disposing of covered household hazardous products in addition to those provided by manufacturers or prohibits or restricts any persons from receiving, collecting, transporting, or disposing of covered household hazardous products, provided that all other applicable laws are met.

§ 7189. RULEMAKING

The Secretary of Natural Resources may adopt rules to implement the requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 3. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATION OF
REGISTRATION FEE FOR COVERED HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS

On or before January 15, 2024, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit to the House Committees on Ways and Means and on Environment and Energy and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy a recommended fee for the registration of stewardship organizations under the covered household hazardous product program under 10 V.S.A. chapter 164B.

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 6621a(a) is amended to read:

(a) In accordance with the following schedule, no person shall knowingly dispose of the following materials in solid waste or in landfills:

* * *

(12) Covered household hazardous products after July 1, 2025.

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 7714 is amended to read:

§ 7714. TYPE 3 PROCEDURES

(a) Purpose; scope.

(1) The purpose of this section is to establish the public notice and comment requirements that the Department must follow when adopting general permits, except for general permits governed by section 7712 of this chapter, and when considering other permits listed in this section.

(2) The procedures under this section shall be known as Type 3 Procedures. This section governs each of the following:

(A) Each general permit issued pursuant to the Secretary's authority under this title other than a general permit subject to section 7712 of this chapter. However, this section does not apply to a notice of intent under a general permit.

(B) Issuance of a dam safety order under chapter 43 of this title, except for an unsafe dam order under section 1095 of this title.

(C) An application or request for approval of:

(i) an aquatic nuisance control permit under chapter 50 of this title;

(ii) a change in treatment for a public water supply under chapter 56 of this title;

(iii) a collection plan for mercury-containing lamps under section 7156 of this title;

(iv) an individual plan for the collection and recycling of electronic waste under section 7554 of this title; ~~and~~

(v) a primary battery stewardship plan under section 7586 of this title; and

(vi) a covered household hazardous products collection plan under section 7183 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 8003 is amended to read:

§ 8003. APPLICABILITY

(a) The Secretary may take action under this chapter to enforce the following statutes and rules, permits, assurances, or orders implementing the following statutes, and the Board may take such action with respect to subdivision (10) of this subsection:

* * *

(30) 3 V.S.A. § 2810, relating to interim environmental media standards; ~~and~~

(31) 10 V.S.A. chapter 124, relating to the trade in covered animal parts or products; and

(32) 10 V.S.A. chapter 164B, relating to collection and management of covered household hazardous products.

* * *

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 8503 is amended to read:

§ 8503. APPLICABILITY

(a) This chapter shall govern all appeals of an act or decision of the Secretary, excluding enforcement actions under chapters 201 and 211 of this title and rulemaking, under the following authorities and under the rules adopted under those authorities:

(1) The following provisions of this title:

* * *

(V) chapter 124 (trade in covered animal parts or products); and

(W) chapter 164B (collection and management of covered household hazardous products).

- (2) 29 V.S.A. chapter 11 (management of lakes and ponds).
- (3) 24 V.S.A. chapter 61, subchapter 10 (relating to salvage yards).
- (4) 3 V.S.A. § 2810 (interim environmental media standards).

* * *

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Bray, for the Committee on Finance, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 77.

Senator Lyons, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

Reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Finance, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass.

Senator Perchlik, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 86.

Senator Williams, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Finance, to which the bill was referred, reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Senator Perchlik, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by adding in a new Sec. 7 to read as follows

Sec. 7. 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 5 is amended to read:

Subchapter 5. Interpreters for Judicial, Administrative, and Legislative Findings

§ 331. DEFINITIONS

As used in the subchapter:

(1) “Person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind” means any person who has such difficulty hearing, even with amplification, to the extent that he or she the person cannot rely on hearing for communication.

(2) “Proceeding” means any judicial proceeding, contested case under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, or other hearing before an administrative agency not included under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(3) “Qualified interpreter” means an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who meets standards of competency established by the national or Vermont Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf ~~as amended, by rule, by the Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.~~

§ 332. RIGHT TO INTERPRETER; ASSISTIVE LISTENING EQUIPMENT

(a) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who is a party or witness in any proceeding shall be entitled to be provided with a qualified interpreter for the duration of the person’s participation in the proceeding.

(b) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind shall be entitled to be provided with a qualified interpreter upon five working days' notice that the person has reasonable need to do any of the following:

* * *

(c) If a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind is unable to use or understand sign language, the presiding officer or State board or agency or State legislative official shall, upon five working days' notice, make available appropriate assistive listening equipment for use during the proceeding or activity.

§ 333. APPOINTMENT OF INTERPRETER

(a) The presiding officer in a proceeding shall appoint an interpreter after making a preliminary determination that the interpreter is able to:

(1) readily communicate with the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing,~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

(2) accurately interpret statements or communications from the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing,~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and to

(3) interpret the proceedings to the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind.

* * *

§ 336. RULES; INFORMATION; LIST OF INTERPRETERS

(a) ~~The Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall, by rule, establish factors to be considered by the presiding officer under section 333 of this title before appointing an interpreter who is not a qualified interpreter. Such factors shall encourage the widest availability of interpreters in Vermont while at the same time ensuring~~ State of Vermont shall maintain a contract to operate a statewide sign language interpreter referral service to provide services to a person who has a right to an interpreter under section 332 of this subchapter. The contract shall require that the an interpreter providing services through the sign language interpreter referral service:

(1) is able to communicate readily with the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

(2) is able to interpret accurately statements or communications by the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

(3) is able to interpret the proceedings to the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

- (4) ~~shall~~ maintain confidentiality;
- (5) ~~shall~~ be impartial with respect to the outcome of the proceeding;
- (6) ~~shall~~ does not exert any influence over the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and
- (7) ~~shall~~ does not accept assignments the interpreter does not feel competent to handle.

(b) ~~Rules established by the Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing pursuant to subdivision 331(3) of this title amending the standards of competency established by the national or Vermont Registry of the Deaf shall be limited to the factors set forth in subsection (a) of this section. [Repealed.]~~

(c) ~~The Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall prepare an explanation of the provisions of this subchapter which shall be distributed to all State agencies and courts. [Repealed.]~~

(d) ~~The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall maintain a list of qualified interpreters in Vermont and, where such information is available, in surrounding states. The list shall be distributed to State of Vermont shall maintain access to qualified interpreters in Vermont for all State agencies and courts through the statewide contract maintained by the State pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.~~

§ 337. REVIEW

(a) A decision, order, or judgment of a court or administrative agency may be reversed on appeal if the court or agency finds that a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who was a party or a witness in the proceeding was deprived of an opportunity to communicate effectively, and that the deprivation was prejudicial.

* * *

§ 338. ADMISSIONS; CONFESSIONS

(a) An admission or confession by a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind made to a law enforcement officer or any other person having a prosecutorial function may only be used against the person in a criminal proceeding if:

(1) ~~The~~ the admission or confession was made knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently and is not subject to alternative interpretations resulting from the person's habits and patterns of communication-; and

(2) ~~The~~ the admission or confession, if made during a custodial interrogation, was made after reasonable steps were taken, including the

appointment of a qualified interpreter, to ensure that the defendant understood ~~his or her~~ the defendant's constitutional rights.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section supplement the constitutional rights of the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind.

§ 339. COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO INTERPRETERS; PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSURE

(a) An interpreter, whether or not the interpreter is a qualified interpreter, shall not disclose or testify to:

(1) a communication made by a person to an interpreter acting in ~~his or her~~ the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English proficiency; or

(2) any information obtained by the interpreter while acting in ~~his or her~~ the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English proficiency.

(b) There is no prohibition on disclosure under this section if the services of the interpreter were sought or obtained to enable or aid anyone to commit or plan to commit what the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or the person with limited English proficiency knew or reasonably should have known to be a crime or fraud.

* * *

(d) As used in this section, “person with limited English proficiency” means a person who does not speak English as ~~his or her~~ the person's primary language and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, Senators Perchlik, Baruth, Kitchel, Sears, Starr and Westman moved to substitute a proposal of amendment for the recommendation of proposal of amendment of the Committee on Appropriations by adding a new Sec. 7 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 5 is amended to read:

Subchapter 5. Interpreters for Judicial, Administrative, and Legislative Findings

§ 331. DEFINITIONS

As used in the subchapter:

(1) “Person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind” means any person who has ~~such~~ difficulty hearing, even with amplification, to the extent that he or she the person cannot rely on hearing for communication.

(2) “Proceeding” means any judicial proceeding, contested case under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, or other hearing before an administrative agency not included under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(3) “Qualified interpreter” means an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who meets standards of competency established by the national or Vermont Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf ~~as amended, by rule, by the Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.~~

§ 332. RIGHT TO INTERPRETER; COMMUNICATION ACCESS
REALTIME TRANSLATION (CART) SERVICES; ASSISTIVE
LISTENING EQUIPMENT

(a) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who is a party or witness in any proceeding shall be entitled to be provided with a qualified interpreter or CART services for the duration of the person’s participation in the proceeding.

(b) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind shall be entitled to be provided with a qualified interpreter or CART services upon five working days’ notice that the person has reasonable need to do any of the following:

* * *

(c) If a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind is unable to use or understand sign language, the presiding officer or State board or agency or State legislative official shall, upon five working days’ notice, make available appropriate assistive listening equipment for use during the proceeding or activity.

§ 333. APPOINTMENT OF INTERPRETER

(a) The presiding officer in a proceeding shall appoint an interpreter after making a preliminary determination that the interpreter is able to:

(1) readily communicate with the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing,~~ to Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

(2) accurately interpret statements or communications from the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and to

(3) interpret the proceedings to the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind.

* * *

§ 336. RULES; INFORMATION; LIST OF INTERPRETERS CONTRACT SERVICES

(a) ~~The Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall, by rule, establish factors to be considered by the presiding officer under section 333 of this title before appointing an interpreter who is not a qualified interpreter. Such factors shall encourage the widest availability of interpreters in Vermont while at the same time ensuring~~ State of Vermont shall maintain contracts to operate CART services and a statewide sign language interpreter referral service to provide services to a person who has a right to an interpreter or CART services under section 332 of this subchapter. The contract shall require that the an interpreter providing services through the sign language interpreter referral service:

(1) is able to communicate readily with the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

(2) is able to interpret accurately statements or communications by the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

(3) is able to interpret the proceedings to the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

(4) shall maintain confidentiality;

(5) shall be impartial with respect to the outcome of the proceeding;

(6) ~~shall~~ does not exert any influence over the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and

(7) ~~shall~~ does not accept assignments the interpreter does not feel competent to handle.

(b) ~~Rules established by the Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing pursuant to subdivision 331(3) of this title amending the standards of competency established by the national or Vermont Registry of the Deaf shall be limited to the factors set forth in subsection (a) of this section. [Repealed.]~~

(c) ~~The Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall prepare an explanation of the provisions of this subchapter which shall be distributed to all State agencies and courts. [Repealed.]~~

(d) ~~The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall maintain a list of qualified interpreters in Vermont and, where such information is available, in surrounding states. The list shall be distributed to~~ State of Vermont shall maintain access to qualified interpreters in Vermont and CART services for all State agencies and courts through the statewide contracts maintained by the State pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

§ 337. REVIEW

(a) A decision, order, or judgment of a court or administrative agency may be reversed on appeal if the court or agency finds that a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who was a party or a witness in the proceeding was deprived of an opportunity to communicate effectively, and that the deprivation was prejudicial.

* * *

§ 338. ADMISSIONS; CONFESSIONS

(a) An admission or confession by a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind made to a law enforcement officer or any other person having a prosecutorial function may only be used against the person in a criminal proceeding if:

(1) ~~The~~ the admission or confession was made knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently and is not subject to alternative interpretations resulting from the person's habits and patterns of communication; and

(2) ~~The~~ the admission or confession, if made during a custodial interrogation, was made after reasonable steps were taken, including the appointment of a qualified interpreter, to ensure that the defendant understood ~~his or her~~ the defendant's constitutional rights.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section supplement the constitutional rights of the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind.

§ 339. COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO INTERPRETERS; PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSURE

(a) An interpreter, whether or not the interpreter is a qualified interpreter, shall not disclose or testify to:

(1) a communication made by a person to an interpreter acting in ~~his or her~~ the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English proficiency; or

(2) any information obtained by the interpreter while acting in ~~his or her~~ the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English proficiency.

(b) There is no prohibition on disclosure under this section if the services of the interpreter were sought or obtained to enable or aid anyone to commit or plan to commit what the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or the person with limited English proficiency knew or reasonably should have known to be a crime or fraud.

* * *

(d) As used in this section, “person with limited English proficiency” means a person who does not speak English as ~~his or her~~ the person’s primary language and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

The President Resumes the Chair

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read a second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Appropriations, as substituted, was agreed to and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 126.

Senator Bray, for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

This act may be cited as the “Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act” or “CRBPA.”

Sec. 2. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) Nature is facing a catastrophic loss of biodiversity, both globally and locally.

(2) In addition to its intrinsic value, biodiversity is essential to human survival.

(3) According to the United Nations:

(A) one million species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction;

(B) human activity has altered almost 75 percent of the Earth's surface, squeezing wildlife and nature into ever-smaller natural areas of the planet;

(C) the health of ecosystems on which humans and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever, affecting the very foundations of economies, livelihoods, food security, health, and quality of life worldwide; and

(D) the causes of the drivers of changes in nature rank as follows:

(i) changes in land, water, and sea use;

(ii) direct exploitation of organisms;

(iii) climate change;

(iv) pollution; and

(v) invasive species.

(4) The 2017 Vermont Forest Action Plan found that fragmentation and parcelization represent major threats to forest health and productivity and exacerbate the impacts of climate change.

(5) In 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 183, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation was tasked with developing the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap to strengthen, modernize, promote, and protect the forest products sector and the greater forest economy and promote the importance of healthy, resilient, and sustainably managed working forests that provide a diverse array of high-quality products now and in the future.

(6) The 2021 Vermont Climate Assessment highlights an increase in extreme weather events such as droughts and floods as a significant impact of climate change in Vermont and recommends nature-based solutions as a proven, low-cost strategy for climate adaptation and resilience.

(7) The initial Vermont Climate Action Plan calls for investing in strategic conservation to increase the pace of permanent conservation towards 30 by 30 targets, with Vermont Conservation Design guiding prioritization of efforts.

(8) Freshwater vertebrate populations have declined by 84 percent globally since 1970, twice the rate of decline of biodiversity in terrestrial and marine biomes. Almost one in three freshwater species are threatened with extinction.

(9) Approximately 75 percent of all river miles assessed in Vermont are disconnected from their floodplains, indicating degradation and exacerbating flood-related damages.

(10) The Nature Conservancy has developed the Resilient and Connected Landscapes project and found that Vermont plays a key role in the conservation of biodiversity regionally.

(11) The Staying Connected Initiative is an international partnership of public and private organizations. Its goal is to maintain, enhance, and restore landscape connectivity for wide-ranging mammals across the Northern Appalachians-Acadian region, from the Adirondack Mountains to the Maritime Provinces. The Staying Connected Initiative has identified nine linkages across this vast region that are extremely important to wildlife. Six of these linkages lie within Vermont.

(12) The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, working within the Agency of Natural Resources and with Vermont conservation organizations, has developed Vermont Conservation Design, a framework to sustain the State's ecologically functional landscape into the future.

(13) Intact and connected ecosystems support Vermont's biodiversity, reduce flood risks, mitigate drought, and sequester and store carbon.

(14) Vermont's most effective and efficient contribution to conserving biological diversity and maintaining a landscape resilient to climate change is to conserve an intact and connected landscape.

(15) In order to maintain ecological functions in intact and connected ecosystems, the full range of conservation approaches is needed, including supporting private landowner education, technical assistance, and programs; conservation easements that promote sustainable forest management; and conservation easements and fee acquisitions focused on passive management.

(16) The Vermont Housing Finance Agency's 2020 Housing Needs Assessment projected an urgent pre-pandemic need for new housing. Strategic investment in conservation is consistent with construction of housing in Vermont's villages and town centers.

(17) The land and waters, forests and farms, and ecosystems and natural communities in Vermont are the traditional and unceded home of the Abenaki people. Access to land and land-based enterprises has excluded Black,

Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) Vermonters and others from historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities in the centuries of European settlement. Efforts to increase land conservation must also include opportunities to increase access to land and land-based enterprise for Indigenous People and all who come from historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. chapter 89 is added to read:

CHAPTER 89. COMMUNITY RESILIENCY AND BIODIVERSITY
PROTECTION

§ 2801. DEFINITIONS

As used in this section:

(1) “Ecological reserve area” means an area having permanent protection from conversion and that is managed to maintain a natural state within which natural ecological processes and disturbance events are allowed to proceed with minimal interference.

(2) “Biodiversity conservation area” means an area having permanent protection from conversion for the majority of the area and that is managed for the primary goal of sustaining species or habitats. These areas may include regular, active interventions to address the needs of particular species or to maintain or restore habitats.

(3) “Natural resource management area” means an area having permanent protection from conversion for the majority of the area but that is subject to long-term, sustainable land management.

(4) “Conversion” means a fundamental change in natural ecosystem type or habitat, natural or undeveloped land cover type, or natural form and function of aquatic systems.

(5) “Sustainable land management” means the stewardship and use of forests and forestlands, grasslands, wetlands, riparian areas, and other lands, including the types of agricultural lands that support biodiversity, in a way, and at a rate, that maintains or restores their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality, and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic, and social functions at local, State, and regional levels, and that does not degrade ecosystem function.

(6) “Conserved” means permanently protected and meeting the definition of ecological reserve area, biodiversity conservation area, or natural resource management area as defined in this section for purposes of meeting the 30 percent goal in subsection 2802(b) of this title. For purposes of meeting the 50 percent goal of subsection 2802(b) of this title, “conserved” primarily

means permanently protected and meeting the definition of ecological reserve area, biodiversity conservation area, or natural resource management area as defined in this section, although other long-term land protection mechanisms and measures that achieve the goals of Vermont Conservation Design that are enforceable and accountable and that support an ecologically functional and connected landscape may be considered.

§ 2802. CONSERVATION VISION AND GOALS

(a) The vision of the State of Vermont is to maintain an ecologically functional landscape that sustains biodiversity, maintains landscape connectivity, supports watershed health, promotes climate resilience, supports working farms and forests, provides opportunities for recreation and appreciation of the natural world, and supports the historic settlement pattern of compact villages surrounded by rural lands and natural areas.

(b) It is the goal of the State that 30 percent of Vermont's total land area shall be conserved by 2030, and 50 percent of the State's total land area shall be conserved by 2050. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall lead the effort in achieving these goals. The land conserved shall include State, federal, municipal, and private land.

(c) Reaching 30 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050 shall include a mix of ecological reserve areas, biodiversity conservation areas, and natural resource management areas. In order to support an ecologically functional and connected landscape with sustainable production of natural resources and recreational opportunities, the approximate percentages of each type of conservation category shall be guided by the principles of conservation science and the conservation targets within Vermont Conservation Design, prioritizing ecological reserve areas to protect highest priority natural communities and maintain or restore old forests.

§ 2803. CONSERVED LAND INVENTORY

(a) On or before July 1, 2024, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, in consultation with the Secretary, shall create an inventory of Vermont's conserved land and conservation policies to serve as the basis of meeting the conservation goals of Vermont Conservation Design and to meet the goals established in section 2802 of this title. The inventory shall be submitted for review to the House Committees on Environment and Energy and on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

(b) The inventory shall include:

(1) A review of the three conservation categories defined in section 2801 of this title and suggestions for developing any modifications or

additions to these categories that maintain or complement the core concepts of ecological reserve areas, biodiversity conservation areas, and natural resource management areas in order to complete the conserved land inventory and inform the comprehensive strategy in the conservation plan. As part of this review, criteria shall be developed to determine the types of agricultural lands that will qualify as supporting and restoring biodiversity and therefore count towards the natural resource management area category.

(2) The amount of conserved land in Vermont that fits into each of the three conservation categories defined in section 2801 of this title, including public and private land. The inventory shall also include other lands permanently protected from development by fee ownership or subject to conservation easements.

(3) A summary of the totality of conservation practices, both permanent and intermediate, available for reaching the goals of this chapter, including what they are, what they do, how they contribute, and what metrics are available to quantify them.

(4) An assessment of how State lands will be used to increase conserved ecological reserve areas.

(5) The implementation methods that could be utilized for achieving the goals of this chapter using Vermont Conservation Design as a guide.

(6) A review of how aquatic systems are currently conserved or otherwise protected in the State, including a description of the benefits land conservation provides for aquatic systems, whether this is sufficient to maintain aquatic system functions and services, and how the implementation methods for achieving the goals of this chapter using Vermont Conservation Design as a guide would include specific strategies for protecting aquatic system health.

(7) How existing programs will be used to meet the conservation goals of this chapter and recommendations for new programs, if any, that will be needed to meet the goals.

(8) An assessment of existing funding and recommendations for new funding sources that will be needed for acquisition of land, purchase or donation of conservation easements, staffing capacity, and long-term stewardship to meet the goals.

(9) An equity assessment of existing land protection and conservation strategies and programs.

(10) An evaluation of the opportunities related to intergenerational land transfer trends and how the State could proactively direct resources to achieve conservation at the time of transfer.

§ 2804. CONSERVATION PLAN

(a) On or before December 31, 2025, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, in consultation with the Secretary, shall develop a plan to implement the conservation goals of Vermont Conservation Design and to meet the vision and goals established in section 2802 of this title. The plan shall be submitted for review to the House Committees on Environment and Energy and on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

(b) The plan shall include:

(1) a comprehensive strategy for achieving the vision and goals of section 2802 of this title while continuing to conserve and protect Vermont's agricultural land, working forests, historic properties, recreational lands, and surface waters;

(2) the implementation methods for achieving the vision and goals of this chapter using Vermont Conservation Design as a guide;

(3) recommendations to provide and increase equitable access to protected and conserved lands and land-based enterprises, including recreational access to and use of conserved lands; and

(4) recommendations to implement the vision and goals of this chapter while also enhancing the State of Vermont's current investments and commitments to working lands enterprises, rural landowners, and the broad conservation mission implemented by the Secretary and VHCB, including conservation of agricultural land, working forests, historic properties, recreational lands, and surface waters.

(c) In developing the plan, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, in consultation with the Secretary, shall hold 12 or more public meetings on the plan between July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025 to solicit input from stakeholders. Stakeholders shall include private owners of forestlands and agricultural lands, land trusts, conservation organizations, environmental organizations, working lands enterprises, outdoor recreation groups and businesses, Indigenous groups and representatives from historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities, watershed groups, municipalities, regional planning commissions, conservation commissions, and relevant State and federal agencies. At least three of the meetings shall be designed to solicit comments from the general public.

(d) The conserved land inventory established in 2803 of this title shall be updated biennially to track progress toward meeting the vision and goals of this chapter, which shall be publicly available, and the Secretary shall submit a report to the relevant committees on or before January 15 following each update.

Sec. 4. APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The sum of \$75,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board in fiscal year 2024 to support public education and outreach to inform the development of the statewide conservation plan.

(b) The sum of \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Natural Resources in fiscal year 2024 to hire a limited-service position to support the development of the statewide conservation plan.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Lyons, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Natural Resources was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered on a roll call, Yeas 20, Nays 7.

Senator Brock having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Bray, Champion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, White, Wrenner.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Brock, Collamore, Ingalls, Norris, Starr, Westman, Williams.

Those Senators absent and not voting were: Kitchel, Sears, Weeks.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered**H. 171.**

Senator Lyons, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to adult protective services.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. chapter 69, subchapter 1, in section 6902, in subdivision (1)(A), by inserting the word or before the word “recklessly” and by striking out “, or negligently”

Second: In Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. chapter 69, subchapter 1, in section 6902, in subdivision (21)(A), by inserting the word or before “reckless” and by striking out “, or negligent”

Third: In Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. chapter 69, subchapter 1, in section 6902, by striking out subdivision (9) in its entirety and by inserting a new subdivision (9) to read as follows:

~~(9) “Caregiver” means a person, agency, facility, or other organization with responsibility for providing subsistence or medical or other care to an adult who is an elder or has a disability, who has assumed the responsibility voluntarily, by contract, or by an order of the court; or a person providing care, including medical care, custodial care, personal care, mental health services, rehabilitative services, or any other kind of care provided that is required because of another’s age or disability;~~

(A) a worker or employee in a facility or program that provides care to an adult who is an elder or has a disability and who has assumed the responsibility voluntarily, by contract, or by an order of the court; or

(B) a person with a designated responsibility for providing care to a person that is required because of the person’s age or disability.

Fourth: In Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. chapter 69, subchapter 1, in section 6902, in subdivision (34)(B), by inserting before the semicolon the phrase or is determined to be clinically eligible to receive Long-Term Medicaid waiver services

Fifth: In Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. chapter 69, subchapter 1, in section 6902, in subdivision (34)(C), by inserting or before “infirmities of aging” and by striking out “; or is determined to be clinically eligible to receive Long-Term Medicaid waiver services”

Sixth: In Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. chapter 69, subchapter 1, in section 6902, in subdivision (34)(C)(ii), by inserting the phrase the specific report of before “abuse”

Seventh: In Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. chapter 69, subchapter 1, in section 6911, in subsection (a), in subdivision (1), in first sentence, after “protections,” by inserting the following phrase except those provided by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, its corresponding regulations, and 18 V.S.A. § 1881,

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposals of amendment.

Senator Chittenden, for the Committee on Finance, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposals of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare?, Senators Lyons, Gulick and Williams move to amend the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Health and Welfare by striking out the *sixth* proposal of amendment in its entirety and by numbering the remaining proposal of amendment to be numerically correct.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Health and Welfare, as amended, was agreed to and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 488.

Senator White, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to approval of the adoption of the charter of the Town of Ludlow.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 125 (Town of Ludlow), in section 2, by striking out all after the section heading and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Except as otherwise specifically provided by law or by a vote of the citizens of the Town at an annual or special meeting, the Select Board may determine the articles to be voted upon by Australian ballot at a special or annual Town meeting and shall indicate such in the warning.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Rules Suspended; Bills Messaged

On motion of Senator Baruth, the rules were suspended, and the following bills were severally ordered messaged to the House forthwith:

H. 45, H. 157, H. 291, H. 386, H. 470.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until ten o'clock in the forenoon on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.