

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
3 Bill No. 870 entitled “An act relating to professions and occupations regulated
4 by the Office of Professional Regulation” respectfully reports that it has
5 considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that
6 the bill be amended as follows:

7 First: By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec.
8 1a to read as follows:

9 * * * Background Checks for Psychologists * * *

10 Sec. 1a. 3 V.S.A. § 123 be amended to read:

11 § 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

12 * * *

13 (j)(1) The Office may inquire into the criminal background histories of
14 applicants for initial licensure and for license renewal of any Office-issued
15 credential, including a license, certification, registration, or specialty
16 designation for the following professions:

17 * * *

18 (I) speech-language pathologists licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter
19 87; ~~and~~

20 (J) individuals registered on the roster of psychotherapists who are
21 nonlicensed and noncertified; and

1 shall register the report in the Statewide Registration System if it has been
2 completed properly and filed in accordance with this chapter. The portion of
3 the registered birth report that is not confidential under section 5014 of this
4 title is the birth certificate.

5 * * *

6 * * * Naturopathic Physicians Filing Technical Advisory Group * * *

7 Sec 2c. NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS TECHNICAL ADVISORY
8 GROUP

9 (a) On or before September 1, 2024, the Commissioner of the Vermont
10 Department of Health or designee shall convene the first meeting of the
11 Naturopathic Physicians Technical Advisory Group. The Technical Advisory
12 Group shall discuss the potential integration of naturopathic physicians into
13 statewide policies regarding Vermont’s Patient Choice at End of Life laws (18
14 V.S.A. chapter 113), do not resuscitate (DNR) orders and advanced directives,
15 and the creation of clinician orders for life-sustaining treatment (COLST). The
16 Technical Advisory Group shall also consider the requirements of integrating
17 naturopathic physicians into statewide policies.

18 (b) The Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health or designee
19 shall chair any meeting or meetings described in this section.

20 (c) The following individuals and entities shall be invited to participate in
21 the meeting or meetings described in this section:

- 1 (1) the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges;
- 2 (2) the Office of Professional Regulation;
- 3 (3) Patient Choices Vermont;
- 4 (4) the Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians;
- 5 (5) the Vermont Ethics Network;
- 6 (6) the Vermont Medical Society; and
- 7 (7) other entities as needed related to naturopathic medical education.

8 (d) The Commissioner of the Department of Health shall provide
9 recommendations based on the work of the Technical Advisory Group on or
10 before December 1, 2024, to the House Committees on Health Care and on
11 Government Operations and Military Affairs, and the Senate Committees on
12 Health and Welfare and on Government Operations.

13 (e) The Technical Advisory Group shall cease to exist on December 31,
14 2024.

15 Third: By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec.
16 18a to read as follows:

17 * * * Office of Professional Regulation Funding Structure Study * * *
18 Sec. 18a. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; FUNDING
19 STRUCTURE STUDY

20 The Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal
21 Office, shall conduct a study reviewing the funding structure of the Office of

1 Professional Regulation. The Office of Professional Regulation shall report to
2 the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the
3 Senate Committee on Government Operations by January 1, 2025 with an
4 assessment of the benefits and challenges of the current funding model for the
5 Office of Professional Regulation, as established in 3 V.S.A. § 124, and with
6 any recommendations for alternative models for funding the Office of
7 Professional Regulation.

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11 (Committee vote: _____)

12

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Senator _____

14

FOR THE COMMITTEE