

## **Social Services Providers Safety Workgroup**

This amendment could go in the Miscellaneous Judiciary bill (House Judiciary) or S.189 – Mental Health response service protocols (Senate Health and Welfare)

Sex. XXX

(a) The Social Services Safety Workgroup is created to address the safety of social service workers, who, nationally, have one of the highest rates of injuries and illnesses of all occupations. Two social workers have died in the last 8 years in Vermont due to violence perpetrated by clients. As such, this is a complex issue that deserves greater study.

(b) Membership of the Workgroup shall include the following members and

(1) One Social Worker appointed by the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

(2) The Executive Director or designee appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

(3) The Executive Director or designee of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

(4) One representative of a community mental health centers

(5) One representative of a Vermont Community Action Programs

(6) One representative of the Vermont Parent Child centers

(7) One substance use provider

(8) The Executive Director of the Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging

(9) One Restorative Justice services provider

(10) One representative of the Vermont Mental Health Counselors Association

(11) The Executive Director of the Vermont Medical Society.

(12) The Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Independent Living

(c) The Workgroup shall meet not more than four times on or before November 1, 2024. The first meeting shall be called by the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers on or before August 15, 2024.

(d) The Workgroup shall report its recommendations, which may include proposed legislative to address the safety of social workers on or before November 15, 2024.