

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 89 entitled “An act relating to establishing a forensic facility” respectfully
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be
5 amended as follows:

6 First: By inserting a new reader assistance heading and Sec. 1 to read as
7 follows:

8 * * * Purpose * * *

9 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

10 It is the purpose of this act to enable the Commissioners of Mental Health
11 and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living to seek treatment and
12 programming for certain individuals in a forensic facility. An initial forensic
13 facility shall be located in the nine-bed unit of the current Vermont Psychiatric
14 Care Hospital. This unit shall be relicensed as a therapeutic community
15 residence.

16 and by renumbering the existing Sec. 1 to be Sec. 1a

17 Second: In Sec. 8, 18 V.S.A. § 7627, subsection (o), in the first sentence,
18 by striking out the word “the” after the phrase “the court may”

19 Third: By inserting a reader assistance heading and new Secs. 20 and 21
20 after Sec. 19 to read as follows:

1 * * * Presentation and Report * * *

2 Sec. 20. PRESENTATION; FORENSIC FACILITY PROGRAMMING

3 On or before February 1, 2024, the Departments of Mental Health and of
4 Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall jointly present the following
5 information to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate
6 Committee on Health and Welfare:

7 (1) a plan for staffing and programming at the forensic facility,
8 including whether any specialized training will be required for staff members
9 and whether any services provided at the forensic facility will be contracted to
10 third parties;

11 (2) a plan for the joint management of the forensic facility by the
12 Departments; and

13 (3) whether any additional resources are needed for the operation of the
14 forensic facility.

15 Sec. 21. REPORT; FORENSIC FACILITY

16 Annually, on or before January 15 between 2025 and 2030, the Departments
17 of Mental Health and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall
18 jointly submit a report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the
19 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare containing:

20 (1) the average daily census at the forensic facility, including trends
21 over time;

1 (2) the number of individuals waitlisted for the forensic facility, and
2 where these individuals receive treatment or programming while waiting for a
3 bed at the forensic facility;

4 (3) aggregated demographic data about the individuals served at the
5 forensic facility; and

6 (4) an account of the number and types of emergency involuntary
7 procedures used at the forensic facility.

8 and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

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15 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE