

H.845

An act relating to legislative review of certain report requirements

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

* * * Amendment to 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) Language * * *

Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) is amended to read:

(d) ~~Unless~~ It is the intent of the General Assembly that, except for reports required by interstate compacts and except as otherwise provided by law, whenever an agency is required by law to submit an annual, biennial, or other periodic report to the General Assembly, that requirement shall no longer be required after five years or after five years from ~~July 1, 2009~~ the last date that the statutory or session law section containing the report was amended, whichever date is later. ~~The~~ In each biennial session, the Legislative Council, ~~pursuant to section 424 of this title, may revise the Vermont Statutes Annotated accordingly~~ shall prepare for the General Assembly's review a list of the reports subject to this subsection. A report requirement shall only expire pursuant to legislative enactment.

* * * Reports Exempt from 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) * * *

Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 1007 is amended to read:

§ 1007. FURNISHING TOBACCO TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF
AGE; REPORT

(a) An individual who sells or furnishes tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia to a person under 18 years of age shall be

subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$100.00 for the first offense and not more than \$500.00 for any subsequent offense. An action under this section shall be brought in the same manner as for a traffic violation pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 24 and shall be brought within 24 hours of the occurrence of the alleged violation.

(b)(1) The Department of Liquor Control shall conduct or contract for compliance tests of tobacco licensees as frequently and as comprehensively as necessary to ensure consistent statewide compliance with the prohibition on sales to minors of at least 90 percent for buyers 17 years of age. An individual under 18 years of age participating in a compliance test shall not be in violation of 7 V.S.A. § 1005.

(2) Any violation by a tobacco licensee of subsection 1003(a) of this title and this section after a first sale violation or during a compliance test conducted within six months of a previous violation shall be considered a multiple violation and shall result in the minimum license suspension in addition to any other penalties available under this title. Minimum license suspensions for multiple violations shall be assessed as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>(A) Two violations</u> | <u>one weekday;</u> |
| <u>(B) Three violations</u> | <u>two weekdays;</u> |
| <u>(C) Four violations</u> | <u>three weekdays;</u> |

(D) Five violations

three weekend days,

Friday through Sunday.

(3) The Department shall report to the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and the Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board annually, on or before January 15, the methodology and results of compliance tests conducted during the previous year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the required report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. § 4553(b) is amended to read:

(b) The Human Rights Commission shall forward, on or before January 1 of each year, to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate an annual report on the status of Commission program operations, the number and type of calls received, complaints filed and investigated, closure of litigated and nonlitigated complaints, public educational activities undertaken, and recommendations for improved human rights advocacy and activities. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 4. 16 App. V.S.A. chapter 1, § 1-8 is amended to read:

§ 1-8. LEGISLATIVE REPORTS; BOARD OF VISITORS

The corporation hereby created shall make annual reports to the Legislature of this State, of its condition, financially and otherwise, and make and distribute the reports required by the act of Congress, herein referred to, and the Legislature may annually appoint a Board of Visitors, who may annually examine the affairs of the corporation. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 5. 24 V.S.A. § 290b(d) is amended to read:

(d) Annually, each sheriff shall furnish the Auditor of Accounts on forms provided by the Auditor a financial report reflecting the financial transactions and condition of the sheriff's department. The sheriff shall submit a copy of this report to the assistant judges of the county. The assistant judges shall prepare a report reflecting funds disbursed by the county in support of the sheriff's department and forward a copy of their report to the Auditor of Accounts. The Auditor of Accounts shall compile the reports and submit one report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the required report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 182(a) is amended to read:

(a) In addition to the duties expressly set forth elsewhere by law, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall:

(1) Prescribe appropriate systems for all State departments and agencies to use in accounting and each department and agency shall keep their accounts in accordance with a system prescribed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner may review and examine any accounting system to determine its compliance with the prescribed system;

(2) Maintain a system of central accounting of income and disbursement so as to enable fiscal officers of the ~~state~~ State at any time to provide an evaluation and analysis of the status of ~~state~~ State finances;

(3) Coordinate the fiscal procedures of the State, including all departments, institutions, and agencies with the controlling accounts kept under this section;

(4) Maintain a system of encumbrance accounting to control expenditures within budget appropriations;

(5) In the Commissioner's discretion, pre-audit receipts, expenditures, and encumbrances;

(6) Draw warrants on the Treasurer for all valid and legal payroll disbursements certified by voucher;

(7) Draw warrants on the Treasurer for all disbursements;

(8) Prepare monthly revenue reports for the Governor, Secretary of Administration, and other officials and for release to the general public, and a comprehensive annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles which shall be distributed to the Chairs of the House Committees on Appropriations, on Corrections and Institutions, and on Ways and Means and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Finance, and on Institutions on or before December 31 of each year; The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the required report to be made under this subdivision.

(9) Make available monthly reports of appropriations, expenditures, encumbrances, and balances for all operating departments;

(10) Maintain a standard chart of accounts structure pertaining to appropriation, revenue, and expenditure codes;

(11) ~~[Deleted.]~~ [Repealed.]

(12) Exercise central management of the appropriation act;

(13) Maintain the general control ledger of State accounts;

* * *

Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 434(a)(5) is amended to read:

(5) Annually, the Treasurer shall prepare a report to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance on the financial activity of the Trust Investment Account. The provisions of 2 V.S.A.

§ 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the required report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 3205(c) is amended to read:

(c) The Taxpayer Advocate shall prepare an annual report detailing the actions the Taxpayer Advocate has taken to improve taxpayer services and the responsiveness of the Department of Taxes. The report shall identify the problems encountered by taxpayers in interacting with the Department of Taxes and include specific recommendations for administrative and legislative actions to resolve those problems. The report shall identify any problems that span an entire class of taxpayer or specific industry, and propose class- or industry-wide solutions. The report of the Taxpayer Advocate shall be submitted to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means ~~no later than~~ on or before January ~~15th~~ 15 of each year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the required report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 9. 33 V.S.A. § 2115 is added to read:

§ 2115. GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORT

On or before January 15 of each year, the Commissioner for Children and Families shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on General, Housing and Military Affairs and on Human

Services and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and

Welfare containing:

(1) an evaluation of the General Assistance program during the previous fiscal year;

(2) any recommendations for changes to the program; and

(3) a plan for continued implementation of the program.

Sec. 10. [Deleted.]

* * * Report Requirements Repealed * * *

Sec. 11. 18 V.S.A. § 1553(c) is amended to read:

~~(c) On or before January 15 of each year, the commissioner of health shall submit a report to the house committees on health care and on human services and the senate committee on health and welfare containing at least the following information:~~

~~(1) a description of the adverse events reviewed by the panel during the preceding 12 months, including statistics and causes;~~

~~(2) corrective action plans to address, in the aggregate, such adverse events; and~~

~~(3) recommendations for system changes and legislation relating to the delivery of health care in Vermont. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 12. 18 V.S.A. § 4632(a)(5) and (6) is amended to read:

~~(5) The office of the attorney general shall report annually on the disclosures made under this section to the general assembly and the governor on or before October 1. The report shall include:~~

~~(A) Information on allowable expenditures and permitted gifts required to be disclosed under this section, which shall present information in aggregate form by selected types of health care providers or individual health care providers, as prioritized each year by the office; and showing the amounts expended on the Green Mountain Care board established in chapter 220 of this title. In accordance with subdivisions (1)(B), (1)(D), and (2)(A) of this subsection, information on samples and donations to free clinics of prescribed products and of over the counter drugs, nonprescription medical devices, items of nonprescription durable medical equipment, medical food, and infant formula shall be presented in aggregate form.~~

~~(B) Information on violations and enforcement actions brought pursuant to this section and section 4631a of this title. [Repealed.]~~

(6) After issuance of the report required by subdivision (5) of this subsection and ~~except~~ Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (1)(B) and (2)(A) of this subsection, the ~~office of the attorney general~~ Office of the Attorney General shall make all disclosed data used for the report publicly available and searchable through an Internet website.

Sec. 13. 32 V.S.A. § 5930z(g) is amended to read:

~~(g) On a regular basis, the Department shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy of solar energy tax credits claimed pursuant to this section, and the~~ The Board shall cause to be transferred from the Clean Energy Development Fund to the General Fund an amount equal to the amount of solar energy tax credits as and when the credits are claimed.

Sec. 14. 2000 Acts and Resolves No. 125, Sec. 2(b)(7) as amended by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 71 and 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 68, Sec. 3 is further amended to read:

~~(7) Report annually to the house and senate committees on education on the extent of indoor air and hazardous exposure problems in Vermont schools and on the percentage of Vermont schools that have established a school environmental health program or qualified for environmental health certification. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 15. 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 5(e) is amended to read:

~~(e) On or before January 15, 2012, and annually thereafter, the department of fish and wildlife shall report to the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources and the senate committee on natural resources and energy regarding the status of the relevant captive cervidae facility's compliance with:~~

~~(1) the requirements of this section; and~~

~~(2) the fish and wildlife board's rule governing the importation and possession of animals for taking by hunting. [Repealed.]~~

* * * Reports Expiration Extension * * *

Sec. 16. REPORT REPEAL DELAYED

The reports set forth in this section shall not be subject to review under the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) until July 1, 2020:

(1) 10 V.S.A. §§ 21(b)(2) (report on the condition of the EB-5 Special Fund), 1978(e)(3) (Technical Advisory Committee report on potable water supply and wastewater systems), 2609a (income from sites used for communication purposes), and 6604(b) (Agency of Natural Resources recommendations regarding solid waste management);

(2) 13 V.S.A. § 5256 (Defender General summarized activities);

(3) 18 V.S.A. §§ 4474j(b) (Marijuana for Symptom Relief Oversight Committee annual report) and 9375a(b)(4) (final projections for three-year projection of health care expenditures);

(4) 28 V.S.A. § 104(e) (Commissioner of Corrections notification of release of offenders);

(5) 29 V.S.A. §§ 155(c) (deposits and disbursements from Historic Property Stabilization and Rehabilitation Special Fund) and 160(e) (condition of Property Management Revolving Fund); and

(6) 1999 Acts and Resolves No. 49, Sec. 96, as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 39 (economic advancement tax incentives awarded under 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 11E); 2005 Acts and Resolves No. 56, Sec. 1(b)(2)(B), as amended by 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 112a (utilization of services and expenses under Choices for Care); 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 110, Sec. 8 (status of river corridor, shoreland, and buffer zoning within Vermont); 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 20, as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves 139, Sec. 49 (status of improvements funded by State capital appropriations); 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 15 (contested cases involving Public Records Act); 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 63, Sec. E.321.1(a), as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 50 (outcomes and measures for Emergency Shelter grants); and 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. 3 (report on Genuine Progress Indicator).

* * * Technical Amendments * * *

Sec. 17. 2 V.S.A. § 263(j) is amended to read:

(j) The Secretary of State shall prepare a list of names and addresses of lobbyists and their employers and the list shall be published at the end of the second legislative week of each regular or adjourned session. Supplemental lists shall be published monthly during the remainder of the legislative session. ~~No later than~~ On or before March 15 of the first year of each legislative biennium, the Secretary of State shall publish no fewer than 500 booklets

containing an alphabetical listing of all registered lobbyists, including, at a minimum, a current passport-type photograph of the lobbyist, the lobbyist's business address, telephone, and fax numbers, a list of the lobbyist's clients, and a subject matter index. ~~The provisions of subsection 20(d) (expiration of required reports) of this title shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

Sec. 18. 2 V.S.A. § 404(b)(6) is amended to read:

(6) Except when the General Assembly is in session and upon the request of any person provide him or her, on a weekly basis, with a list of all public hearings or meetings scheduled by a council, committee, subcommittee, commission, or study committee of the General Assembly or any cancellations of hearings or meetings thereof previously scheduled. ~~The provisions of subsection 20(d) (expiration of required reports) of this title shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.~~

Sec. 19. 3 V.S.A. § 847(b) is amended to read:

(b) The Secretary of State shall publish not less than quarterly a bulletin setting forth the text of all rules filed since the immediately preceding publication and any objections filed under subsection 842(b) or 844(e) of this title. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

Sec. 20. 3 V.S.A. § 2222(c) is amended to read:

(c) The Secretary shall compile, weekly, a list of all public hearings and meetings scheduled by all Executive Branch State agencies, departments, boards, or commissions during the next ensuing week. The list shall be distributed to any person in the State at that person's request. Each Executive Branch State agency, department, board, or commission shall notify the Secretary of all public hearings and meetings to be held and any cancellations of such hearings or meetings. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

Sec. 21. 4 V.S.A. § 608(e) is amended to read:

(e) On or before the tenth Thursday after the convening of each biennial and adjourned session, the Committee shall report to the General Assembly its recommendation whether the candidates should continue in office, with any amplifying information which it may deem appropriate, in order that the General Assembly may discharge its obligation under ~~section 34~~ of Chapter II § 34 of the Constitution of the State of Vermont. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

Sec. 22. 10 V.S.A. § 6503(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Committee shall report to the General Assembly its recommendation to approve or not to approve the petition for the facility together with such additional information and comment it deems appropriate. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

Sec. 23. 16 V.S.A. § 164(17) is amended to read:

(17) Report annually on the condition of education statewide and on a school by school basis. The report shall include information on attainment of standards for student performance adopted under subdivision (9) of this section, number and types of complaints of harassment, hazing, or bullying made pursuant to chapter 9, subchapter 5 of this title and responses to the complaints, financial resources and expenditures, and community social indicators. The report shall be organized and presented in a way that is easily understandable by the general public and that enables each school to determine its strengths and weaknesses. The Secretary shall use the information in the report to determine whether students in each school are provided educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other schools pursuant to subsection 165(b) of this title. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.~~

Sec. 24. 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) The school, at least annually, reports student performance results to community members in a format selected by the school board. In the case of a regional career technical center, the community means the school districts in the service region. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d)(expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.~~ The school report shall include:

* * *

Sec. 25. 16 V.S.A. § 2967(a) is amended to read:

(a) On or before December 15, the Secretary shall publish an estimate, by town school district, city school district, union school district, unified union school district, incorporated school district, and the member school districts of an interstate school district, of the amount of State assistance necessary to fully fund sections 2961 through 2963 of this title in the ensuing school year. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

Sec. 26. 16 V.S.A. § 3862 is amended to read:

§ 3862. REPORTS

~~Notwithstanding the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the~~ The Vermont Education and Health Buildings Finance Agency shall prepare and annually submit to the Governor a complete report listing all projects applied for,

planned, in progress, and completed, and a complete financial report duly audited and certified by a certified public accountant.

Sec. 27. 24 V.S.A. § 1354 is amended to read:

§ 1354. ACCOUNTS; ANNUAL REPORT

The Supervisor or Supervisors shall maintain an account showing in detail the revenue raised and the expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of the Supervisor's duties. The Supervisor or Supervisors shall prepare an annual fiscal report ~~by~~ on or before July 1 which shall conform to procedural and substantive requirements to be established by the Board of Governors and which, upon approval by the Board of Governors, shall be distributed to the residents of the gores. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.~~

Sec. 28. 24 V.S.A. § 4753b(b) is amended to read:

(b) The Commissioner shall report receipt of a grant under this section to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Joint Fiscal Committee. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

Sec. 29. 26 V.S.A. § 3105(d) is amended to read:

(d) Prior to review under this chapter and consideration by the General Assembly of any bill to regulate a profession or occupation, the Office of

Professional Regulation shall make, in writing, a preliminary assessment of whether any particular request for regulation meets the criteria set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The Office shall report its preliminary assessment to the appropriate House or Senate Committee on Government Operations. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

Sec. 30. 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(25) is amended to read:

(25) Transfer any unexpended project balances from previous capital construction acts for the purpose of emergency projects not authorized in a capital construction act in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00; provided the Commissioner shall send timely written notice of such expenditures to the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.~~

Sec. 31. 32 V.S.A. § 166 is amended to read:

§ 166. PAYMENTS TO TOWNS; RETURNS BY COMMISSIONER OF
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

On or before January 10 of each year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall transmit to the auditors of each town a statement showing the amount of money paid by the State to the town and the purpose for which

paid during the year ending December 31 preceding the date of such statement, the date of such payments and purpose for which made, unless the Commissioner of Finance and Management is requested to send such statement at some other date to conform to the fiscal year of such municipality. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.~~

Sec. 32. 32 V.S.A. § 311(b) is amended to read:

(b) At the request of the House or Senate Committee on Government Operations or on Appropriations, the State Treasurer, and the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall present to the requesting committees the recommendations submitted under 3 V.S.A. § 471(n) and 16 V.S.A. § 1942(r). ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

Sec. 33. 32 V.S.A. § 704(i) is amended to read:

(i) ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the plan to be made under this section.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 34. 32 V.S.A. § 3101(b)(11) is amended to read:

(11) From time to time prepare and publish statistics reasonably available with respect to the operation of this title, including amounts collected, classification of taxpayers, tax liabilities, and such other facts as the Commissioner or the General Assembly considers pertinent. ~~The provisions of~~

~~2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.~~

Sec. 35. 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 49 as amended by 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 142, Sec. 76 is further amended to read:

Sec. 49. CLOSING OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; APPROVAL

The Secretary of Administration shall not plan to close or significantly reduce operations at any correctional facility unless approval to proceed with such closing or reduction plans is granted by both the ~~Joint Committee on Corrections Oversight~~ Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee. Any plan submitted to the committees shall include an analysis of the regional impact, including how the increased transportation costs will be funded. ~~The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.~~

Sec. 36. 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 142, Sec. 112 as amended by 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 23, Sec. 65 is further amended to read:

Sec. 112. REPORT REPEAL DELAYED

The reports set forth in this section shall not be subject to expiration under the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) until July 1, 2018:

* * *

(4) 10 V.S.A. §§ 291 (Entrepreneurs' ~~seed capital fund~~ Seed Capital Fund report), 323 (Vermont Housing ~~And~~ and Conservation Trust Fund report), 329 (The Sustainable Jobs Fund Program report), 580(b) (25 by 25 ~~state goal~~ State Goal report), 685(g) (Vermont Community Development Board report), 1196 (Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission report), 1942 (Underground Storage Tank Assistance Program report), and 1961(a)(4) (Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future report), ~~and 7563 (ANR report on federal laws relating to collection and recycling of electronic devices).~~

* * *

(6) 18 V.S.A. §§ 1756 (lead poisoning report), 7402 (Commissioner of Mental Health report), 9505(9) (Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board ~~conflict of interest policy report~~ recommendations), and 9507(a) (Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board report).

* * *

* * * Repeal * * *

Sec. 37. REPEAL

The following are repealed:

(1) 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. 13 (tobacco sales to minors compliance testing);

(2) 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 143, Sec. 40 (calculation of dollar equivalent); and

(3) 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 142, Sec. 113 (Legislative Council report repeal authority).

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 38. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.