

H.182

An act relating to search and rescue

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, in § 1820 (definitions), by striking out subdivision (1) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(1) “Missing person” means an individual:

(A) whose whereabouts is unknown; and

(B)(i) who is with either physically disabled, mentally disabled a physical disability, a mental disability, or a developmental disability; or

(ii) who is an unemancipated minor.

Second: In Sec. 1, in 20 V.S.A. § 1845 (search and rescue report; response), in subdivision (b)(1), by adding a second sentence to read: The Department shall also ensure that notification is made to any municipal police and fire departments of the town in which the person is missing, any volunteer fire departments of that town, and any emergency medical service providers of that town which are in the search and rescue database.

Third: In Sec. 1, in § 1847 (Search and Rescue Council), by striking out subdivision (b)(1) (membership) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(b)(1) Membership. The Council shall be composed of eight members who shall serve two-year terms commencing on July 1 of each odd-numbered year.

Members of the Council shall be as follows:

(A) the Search and Rescue Coordinator;

(B) the Vermont State Police Search and Rescue Team Leader;

(C) one member of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, appointed by the Commissioner of the Department;

(D) one member of the public with experience in search and rescue operations, appointed by the Governor;

(E) one member of the National Ski Patrol or the Green Mountain Club with extensive experience in search and rescue operations, appointed by the Governor;

(F) one member of a professional or volunteer search and rescue organization, appointed by the Governor; and

(G) one volunteer firefighter and one career firefighter, each of whom has obtained National Association of Search and Rescue "SARTECH 3" or equivalent training and either Incident Command System (ICS) 200 or National Incident Management System (NIMS) 300 training, appointed by the Governor.

Fourth: In Sec. 1, in § 1847 (Search and Rescue Council), in subsection (f) (reimbursement), by striking out the last sentence

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 4 (effective dates) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following three new sections to be Sec. 4, Sec. 4a, and Sec. 5 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE
PROTOCOL

(a) The Search and Rescue Coordinator set forth in Sec. 1 of this act shall publish a search and rescue protocol that describes the procedure set forth in Sec. 1, in 20 V.S.A. § 1845, that is required to be followed by any public safety agency or any nonpublic entity that specializes in protecting the safety of the public and which is included in the search and rescue database. The protocol shall be published as a resource for those agencies and entities to understand their responsibilities under Sec. 1, 20 V.S.A. § 1845, of this act.

(b) The Search and Rescue Coordinator shall ensure that the protocol is distributed to those public safety agencies and nonpublic entities within five business days of its publication.

Sec. 4a. REPEAL

20 V.S.A. § 1847 (Search and Rescue Council) is repealed.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

(1) In Sec. 1 of this act, 20 V.S.A. § 1846 (search and rescue database) shall take effect no later than 15 days after passage of this act. The search and

rescue database shall be established, populated, and used as set forth in

20 V.S.A. § 1846 upon its effective date;

(2) Sec. 4 (publication and distribution of search and rescue protocol) of this act shall take effect 15 days after the passage of this act; and

(3) Sec. 4a (repeal of 20 V.S.A. § 1847 (Search and Rescue Council)) of this act shall take effect on June 30, 2017.