

H.308

An act relating to a committee to reorganize and reclassify Vermont's criminal statutes

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

Sec. 1. CRIMINAL CODE RECLASSIFICATION IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created the Criminal Code Reclassification Committee to develop and propose a classification system for purposes of structuring Vermont's criminal offenses.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following six members:

(1) three current members of the House of Representatives, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(2) three current members of the Senate, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(c) Powers and duties.

(1) The Committee shall develop a classification system that creates categories of criminal offenses on the basis of the maximum potential period of imprisonment and the maximum potential fine. The Committee shall propose legislation that places each of Vermont's criminal statutes into one of the

classification offense categories it identifies. If the Committee is unable to determine an appropriate classification for a particular offense, the Committee shall indicate multiple classification possibilities for that offense.

(2) For purposes of the classification system developed pursuant to this section, the Committee shall consider the recommendations of the Criminal Code Reclassification Study Committee, and may consider whether to propose:

(A) rules of statutory interpretation specifically for criminal provisions;

(B) the consistent use of mental element terminology in all criminal provisions;

(C) a comprehensive section of definitions applicable to all criminal provisions.

(d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office, and may consult with the Vermont Crime Research Group, the Vermont Law School Center for Justice Reform, and any other person who would be of assistance to the Committee.

(e) Report. On or before December 31, 2017, the Committee shall submit a report consisting of proposed legislation to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Committee shall select a chair and a vice chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(3) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 15, 2018.

(g) Reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.