

Senate Calendar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014

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ACTION CALENDAR

CONSIDERATION POSTPONED TO MARCH 13, 2014

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 91.

An act relating to public funding of some approved independent schools.

PENDING ACTION: Second reading

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Zuckerman for the Committee on Education.

(For text of the Report of the Committee on Education, see Senate Calendar for February 26, 2014, page 533.)

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 177.

An act relating to nonjudicial discipline.

S. 263.

An act relating to the authority of assistant judges in child support contempt proceedings.

S. 287.

An act relating to involuntary treatment and medication.

Committee Bill for Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 316.

An act relating to child care providers.

By the Committee on Education – **Senator McCormack for the Committee**

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, in § 3603(b), by striking out the subsection in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read:

(b)(1) Mandatory subjects of bargaining are limited to:

(A) child care subsidy reimbursement rates and payment procedures, excluding quality standards and payment schedules associated with the SStep Ahead Recognition System (STARS);

(B) professional development;

(C) the collection of dues and disbursement to the exclusive representative;

(D) agency fees and disbursement to the exclusive representative; and

(E) procedures for resolving grievances.

(2) The parties may also negotiate on any mutually agreed matters that are not in conflict with State or federal law.

Second: In Sec. 2, in § 3603(e), by striking out the subsection in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (e) to read:

(e) An early care and education providers' organization shall not charge the agency fee unless it has established and maintained a procedure to provide nonmembers with:

(1) an audited financial statement that identifies the major categories of expenses and divides them into chargeable and nonchargeable expenses;

(2) an opportunity to object to the amount of the agency fee sought, and to place in escrow any amount reasonably in dispute; and

(3) prompt arbitration by the Vermont Labor Board to resolve any objections over the agency fee.

Third: In Sec. 2, in § 3606(a), by striking out the subsection in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read:

(a) The bargaining unit shall be composed of licensed home child care providers, registered home child care providers, and legally exempt child care providers, as defined in this chapter, who have an agreement with the Department to accept a subsidy.

Fourth: In Sec. 3, by striking out the section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read:

Sec. 3. NEGOTIATIONS; EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDERS

The State's cost of negotiating an agreement pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 36 shall be borne by the State out of existing appropriations made to it for administrative expenditures by the General Assembly. These costs shall not be funded by appropriations made for benefit payments.

Fifth: In Sec. 4, by striking out the section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new sections to be Secs. 4 and 5 to read:

Sec. 4. SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS

If any provision of this chapter or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the chapter and the application of such provisions to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except for Sec. 2(b)(1)(D) (bargaining for agency fees) which shall take effect on February 15, 2015.

(Committee vote: 5-1-1)

Amendment to S. 316 to be offered by Senator McCormack

Senator McCormack moves that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, in § 3601(c), after the words "conditions of employment" by striking out the words "at individual child care centers"

Second: In Sec. 2, in § 3602(3), after the third instance of the words "child care home provider" by inserting the following: , which is defined by the Legally Exempt Child Care Provider Requirements set forth by the Vermont Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division,

Third: In Sec. 2, in § 3612(b)(4), by striking out the words "take negative action" and inserting the word discriminate

Fourth: In Sec. 2, in § 3612(d), after the words "curtail their services" by inserting the words for which they receive State payment

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Third: In Sec. 2, in § 3603(b), by striking out the subsection in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read:

(b)(1) Mandatory subjects of bargaining are limited to:

(A) child care subsidy reimbursement rates and payment procedures;

(B) professional development;

(C) the collection of dues and disbursement to the exclusive representative;

(D) agency fees and disbursement to the exclusive representative; and

(E) procedures for resolving grievances.

(2) The parties may also negotiate on any mutually agreed matters that are not in conflict with State or federal law.

Fourth: In Sec. 2, in § 3603(e), by striking out the subsection in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (e) to read:

(e) An early care and education providers' organization shall not charge the agency fee unless it has established and maintained a procedure to provide nonmembers with:

(1) an audited financial statement that identifies the major categories of expenses and divides them into chargeable and nonchargeable expenses;

(2) an opportunity to object to the amount of the agency fee sought, and to place in escrow any amount reasonably in dispute; and

(3) prompt arbitration by the Vermont Labor Board to resolve any objections over the agency fee.

Fifth: In Sec. 2, in § 3612(b)(4), by striking out the words "take negative action" and inserting the word discriminate

Sixth: In Sec. 2, in § 3612(d), after the words "curtail their services" by inserting the words for which they receive State payment

Seventh: In Sec. 4, by striking out the section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new sections to be Secs. 4 and 5 to read:

Sec. 4. SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS

If any provision of this chapter or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the chapter and the application of such provisions to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except for Sec. 2(b)(1)(D) (bargaining for agency fees) which shall take effect on February 15, 2015.

Second Reading

S. 281.

An act relating to vision riders and a choice of providers for vision and eye care services.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Mullin for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4088j is added to read:

§ 4088j. CHOICE OF PROVIDERS FOR VISION CARE AND MEDICAL EYE CARE SERVICES

(a) To the extent a health insurance plan provides coverage for vision care or medical eye care services, it shall cover those services when provided by a physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23, an optometrist licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 30, or an osteopathic physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 33, provided the health care professional is acting within his or her authorized scope of practice and participates in the plan's network.

(b) A health insurance plan shall impose no greater co-payment, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing amount for services when provided by an optometrist than for the same service when provided by a physician or osteopathic physician.

(c) A health insurance plan shall provide to a licensed health care professional acting within his or her scope of practice the same level of reimbursement or other compensation for providing vision care and medical eye care services that are within the lawful scope of practice of the professions of medicine, optometry, and osteopathy, regardless of whether the health care professional is a physician, optometrist, or osteopathic physician.

(d)(1) A health insurer shall permit a licensed optometrist to participate in plans or contracts providing for vision care or medical eye care to the same extent as it does a licensed physician or osteopathic physician.

(2) A health insurer shall not require a licensed optometrist to provide discounted materials benefits or to participate as a provider in another medical or vision care plan or contract as a condition or requirement for the

optometrist's participation as a provider in any medical or vision care plan or contract.

(e)(1) An agreement between a health insurer or an entity that writes vision insurance and an optometrist or ophthalmologist for the provision of vision services to plan members or subscribers in connection with coverage under a stand-alone vision plan or other health insurance plan shall not require that an optometrist or ophthalmologist provide services or materials at a fee limited or set by the plan or insurer unless the services or materials are reimbursed as covered services under the contract.

(2) An optometrist or ophthalmologist shall not charge more for services and materials that are noncovered services under a vision plan than his or her usual and customary rate for those services and materials.

(3) Reimbursement paid by a vision plan for covered services and materials shall be reasonable and shall not provide nominal reimbursement in order to claim that services and materials are covered services.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) "Contractual discount" means a percentage reduction from an optometrist's or ophthalmologist's usual and customary rate for covered services and materials required under a participating provider agreement.

(2) "Covered services" means services and materials for which reimbursement from a vision plan or other health insurance plan is provided by a member's or subscriber's plan contract, or for which a reimbursement would be available but for the application of the member's or subscriber's contractual limitations of deductibles, co-payments, or coinsurance.

(3) "Health insurance plan" means any health insurance policy or health benefit plan offered by a health insurer or a subcontractor of a health insurer, as well as Medicaid and any other public health care assistance program offered or administered by the State or by any subdivision or instrumentality of the State. The term includes vision plans but does not include policies or plans providing coverage for a specified disease or other limited benefit coverage.

(4) "Health insurer" shall have the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 9402.

(5) "Materials" includes lenses, devices containing lenses, prisms, lens treatments and coatings, contact lenses, and prosthetic devices to correct, relieve, or treat defects or abnormal conditions of the human eye or its adnexa.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

Joint Resolutions For Action

J.R.S. 46.

Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the resolution be adopted?

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal of February 26, 2014, page 263.)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable

S. 211.

An act relating to permitting of sewage holding and pumpout tanks for public buildings.

Reported favorably by Senator Rodgers for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 247.

An act relating to the regulation of medical marijuana dispensaries.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator White for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4472 is amended to read:

§ 4472. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Bona fide health care professional-patient relationship” means a treating or consulting relationship of not less than six months’ duration, in the course of which a health care professional has completed a full assessment of the registered patient’s medical history and current medical condition, including a personal physical examination. If a patient has a terminal illness, the six-month requirement shall not apply.

* * *

(6) “Health care professional” means an individual licensed to practice medicine under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, an individual licensed as a naturopathic physician under 26 V.S.A. chapter 81 who has a special license endorsement authorizing the individual to prescribe, dispense, and administer prescription medicines, an individual certified as a physician assistant under 26 V.S.A. chapter 31, or an individual licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28. This definition includes individuals who are professionally licensed under substantially equivalent provisions in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, or New York.

* * *

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4474 is amended to read:

§ 4474. REGISTERED CAREGIVERS; QUALIFICATION STANDARDS
AND PROCEDURES

(a) A person may submit a signed application to the ~~department of public safety~~ Department of Public Safety to become a registered patient’s registered caregiver. The ~~department~~ Department shall approve or deny the application in writing within 30 days. The Department shall adopt rules for the issuance of a registry identification card which shall include standards for approval or denial of an application based on an individual’s criminal history record. The rules shall address whether an applicant who has been convicted of an offense listed in subsection 4474g(e) of this title has been rehabilitated and should be otherwise eligible for a registry identification card. An applicant shall not be denied solely on the basis of a criminal conviction that is not listed in subsection 4474g(e) of this title. The ~~department~~ Department shall approve a registered caregiver’s application and issue the person an authorization card, including the caregiver’s name, photograph, and a unique identifier, after verifying:-

~~(1) the person will serve as the registered caregiver for one registered patient only; and~~

~~(2) the person has never been convicted of a drug-related crime.~~

(b) Prior to acting on an application, the ~~department~~ Department shall obtain from the Vermont ~~criminal information center~~ Crime Information Center a Vermont criminal record, an out-of-state criminal record, and a criminal record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the applicant. ~~For purposes of~~ As used in this subdivision, “criminal record” means a record of whether the person has ever been convicted of a drug-related crime. Each applicant shall consent to release of criminal records to the ~~department~~ Department on forms substantially similar to the release forms developed by the ~~center~~ Center pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2056c. The ~~department~~ Department

shall comply with all laws regulating the release of criminal history records and the protection of individual privacy. The Vermont ~~criminal information center~~ Crime Information Center shall send to the requester any record received pursuant to this section or inform the ~~department of public safety~~ Department that no record exists. If the ~~department~~ Department disapproves an application, the ~~department~~ Department shall promptly provide a copy of any record of convictions and pending criminal charges to the applicant and shall inform the applicant of the right to appeal the accuracy and completeness of the record pursuant to rules adopted by the Vermont ~~criminal information center~~ Crime Information Center. No person shall confirm the existence or nonexistence of criminal record information to any person who would not be eligible to receive the information pursuant to this subchapter.

(c)(1) ~~A~~ Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a registered caregiver may serve only one registered patient at a time, and a registered patient may have only one registered caregiver at a time.

(2) A registered patient who is under 18 years of age may have two registered caregivers.

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4473(b) is amended to read:

(b) The ~~department of public safety~~ Department of Public Safety shall review applications to become a registered patient using the following procedures:

(1) A patient with a debilitating medical condition shall submit, ~~under oath,~~ a signed application for registration to the ~~department~~ Department. If the patient is under ~~the age of 18 years of age,~~ the application must be signed by both the patient and a parent or guardian. The application shall require identification and contact information for the patient and the patient's registered caregiver applying for authorization under section 4474 of this title, if any, and the patient's designated dispensary under section 4474e of this title, if any. The applicant shall attach to the application a medical verification form developed by the ~~department~~ Department pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4474e is amended to read:

§ 4474e. DISPENSARIES; CONDITIONS OF OPERATION

(a) A dispensary registered under this section may:

(1) Acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, transfer, transport, supply, sell, and dispense marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana-related supplies and educational materials for or to a registered

patient who has designated it as his or her dispensary and to his or her registered caregiver for the registered patient's use for symptom relief. ~~For purposes of~~ As used in this section, "transport" shall mean the movement of marijuana or marijuana-infused products from registered growing locations to their associated dispensaries, between dispensaries, to registered patients and registered caregivers in accordance with delivery protocols, or as otherwise allowed under this subchapter.

* * *

(3) Cultivate and possess at any one time up to 28 mature marijuana plants, 98 immature marijuana plants, and 28 ounces of usable marijuana. However, if a dispensary is designated by more than 14 registered patients, the dispensary may cultivate and possess at any one time two mature marijuana plants, seven immature plants, and ~~two~~ four ounces of usable marijuana for every registered patient for which the dispensary serves as the designated dispensary.

* * *

(d)(1) A dispensary shall implement appropriate security measures to deter and prevent the unauthorized entrance into areas containing marijuana and the theft of marijuana and shall ensure that each location has an operational security alarm system. All cultivation of marijuana shall take place in an enclosed, locked facility which is either indoors or otherwise not visible to the public and which can only be accessed by principal officers and employees of the dispensary who have valid registry identification cards. ~~The department of public safety~~ Department of Public Safety shall perform an annual on-site assessment of each dispensary and may perform on-site assessments of a dispensary without limitation for the purpose of determining compliance with this subchapter and any rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter and may enter a dispensary at any time for such purpose. During an inspection, the ~~department~~ Department may review the dispensary's confidential records, including its dispensing records, which shall track transactions according to registered patients' registry identification numbers to protect their confidentiality.

(2)(A) A registered patient or registered caregiver may obtain marijuana from the dispensary ~~facility~~ by appointment only.

(B) A dispensary may deliver marijuana to a registered patient or registered caregiver. The marijuana shall be transported in a locked container. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt rules establishing protocols for the safe delivery of marijuana to patients and caregivers.

(3) The operating documents of a dispensary shall include procedures for the oversight of the dispensary and procedures to ensure accurate record-keeping.

(4) A dispensary shall submit the results of ~~an annual~~ a biennial financial audit to the ~~department of public safety~~ Department of Public Safety no later than 60 days after the end of the dispensary's fiscal year. The ~~annual~~ audit shall be conducted by an independent certified public accountant, and the costs of any such audit shall be borne by the dispensary. The ~~department~~ Department may also periodically require, within its discretion, the audit of a dispensary's financial records by the ~~department~~ Department.

(5) A dispensary shall destroy or dispose of marijuana, marijuana-infused products, clones, seeds, parts of marijuana that are not usable for symptom relief or are beyond the possession limits provided by this subchapter, and marijuana-related supplies only in a manner approved by rules adopted by the ~~department of public safety~~ Department of Public Safety.

* * *

Sec. 4a. 18 V.S.A. § 4474e(b) is amended to read:

(b)(1) A dispensary shall be operated on a nonprofit basis for the mutual benefit of its patients ~~but need~~. A dispensary does not need to be recognized as a tax-exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a dispensary shall be exempt from taxes imposed by 32 V.S.A. §§ 5822 and 5832.

(2) A dispensary shall have a sliding-scale fee system that takes into account a registered patient's ability to pay.

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4474f is amended to read:

§ 4474f. DISPENSARY APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND REGISTRATION

* * *

(b) Within 30 days of the adoption of rules, the ~~department~~ Department shall begin accepting applications for the operation of dispensaries. Within 365 days of the effective date of this section, the ~~department~~ Department shall grant registration certificates to four dispensaries, provided at least four applicants apply and meet the requirements of this section. No more than ~~four~~ six dispensaries shall hold valid registration certificates at one time. ~~The total statewide number of registered patients who have designated a dispensary shall not exceed 1,000 at any one time.~~ Any time a dispensary registration certificate is revoked, is relinquished, or expires, the ~~department~~ Department shall accept applications for a new dispensary. ~~If at any time after one year~~

~~after the effective date of this section fewer than four dispensaries hold valid registration certificates in Vermont, the department of public safety shall accept applications for a new dispensary.~~

* * *

(g) After a dispensary is approved but before it begins operations, it shall submit the following to the ~~department of public safety~~ Department:

* * *

(4) A registration fee of \$20,000.00 for the first year of operation, and an annual fee of \$30,000.00 in subsequent years that do not require a biennial audit and \$25,000.00 in subsequent years that require a biennial audit.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 4a shall take effect on passage.

(b) All remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Ashe for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations with the following amendments thereto:

First: By striking out Sec. 4a in its entirety.

Second: In Sec. 5, 18 V.S.A. § 4474f, by striking out subsection (g) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(g) After a dispensary is approved but before it begins operations, it shall submit the following to the ~~department of public safety~~ Department:

* * *

(4) A registration fee of \$20,000.00 for the first year of operation, and an annual fee of \$30,000.00 in subsequent years.

Third: By striking out Sec. 6 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 5-0-2)

S. 269.

An act relating to business consumer protection and data security breaches.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Collins for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. § 2435(b)(4) is amended to read:

(4)(A) The notice to a consumer required by this subsection shall be delayed upon request of a law enforcement agency. A law enforcement agency may request the delay if it believes that notification may impede a law enforcement investigation, or a national or Homeland Security investigation or jeopardize public safety or national or Homeland Security interests. In the event law enforcement makes the request for a delay in a manner other than in writing, the data collector shall document such request contemporaneously in writing, including the name of the law enforcement officer making the request and the officer's law enforcement agency engaged in the investigation. A law enforcement agency shall promptly notify the data collector in writing when the law enforcement agency no longer believes that notification may impede a law enforcement investigation, or a national or Homeland Security investigation or jeopardize public safety or national or Homeland Security interests. The data collector shall provide notice required by this section without unreasonable delay upon receipt of a written communication, which includes facsimile or electronic communication, from the law enforcement agency withdrawing its request for delay.

(B) A Vermont law enforcement agency with a reasonable belief that a security breach has or may have occurred at a specific business shall notify the business in writing of its belief. The agency shall also notify the business that additional information on the security breach may need to be furnished to the Vermont Office of the Attorney General or the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation and shall include the website and phone number for the Office and the Department in the notice required by this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall alter the responsibilities of a data collector under this section or provide a cause of action against a law enforcement agency that fails, without bad faith, to provide the notice required by this subdivision.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR NOTICE

S.C.R. 43-50 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to Senate Calendar for February 27, 2014)

H.C.R. 235-254 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for February 27, 2014)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Service Board shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Patti Pallito of Richmond – Member of the State Police Advisory Commission – By Sen. French for the Committee on Government Operations. (2/19/14)

Shirley A. Jefferson of South Royalton – Member of the State Police Advisory Commission – By Sen. McAllister for the Committee on Government Operations. (2/19/14)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CROSSOVER DEADLINES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following Crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 14, 2014**, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

(2) All **Senate** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance must be reported out by the last of those

committees on or before **Friday, March 21, 2014**, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

These deadlines may be waived for any bill or committee only with the consent of the Committee on Rules.

Note: The deadlines were determined by the Joint Rules Committee. The Senate will not act on House bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (Appropriations “Big Bill”, Transportation Spending Bill, Capital Construction Bill, and Miscellaneous Tax Bill).