

Senate Calendar

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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.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

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)

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 316.

An act relating to child care providers.

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)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 237.

An act relating to civil forfeiture proceedings in cases of animal cruelty.

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

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. 13 V.S.A. § 354 is amended to read:

§ 354. ENFORCEMENT; POSSESSION OF ABUSED ANIMAL;
SEARCHES AND SEIZURES; FORFEITURE

* * *

(c) A humane officer shall provide suitable care at a reasonable cost for an animal seized under this section, and have a lien on the animal for all expenses incurred. A humane officer may arrange for the euthanasia of a severely injured, diseased, or suffering animal upon the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian. A humane officer may arrange for euthanasia of an animal seized under this section when the owner is unwilling or unable to provide necessary medical attention required while the animal is in custodial care or when the animal cannot be safely confined under standard housing conditions. An animal not destroyed by euthanasia shall be kept in custodial care and provided with necessary medical care until final disposition of the criminal charges except as provided in subsections (d) through (h) of this section. The custodial caregiver shall be responsible for maintaining the records applicable to all animals seized, including identification, residence, location, medical treatment, and disposition of the animals.

(d) If an animal is seized under this section, the ~~state~~ State may institute a civil proceeding for forfeiture of the animal in the territorial unit of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court where the offense is alleged to have occurred. The proceeding shall be instituted by a motion for forfeiture, which shall be filed with the Court and served upon the animal's owner. The civil forfeiture proceeding is intended to run independently from any criminal prosecution and shall not be delayed pending disposition of any criminal proceeding.

~~(e)(1) The Court shall set a hearing to be held within 21 days after institution of a forfeiture proceeding under this section~~ A preliminary hearing shall be held within 21 days of institution of the civil forfeiture proceeding. If the defendant requests a hearing on the merits, the Court shall schedule a final hearing on the merits to be held within 21 days of the date of the preliminary hearing. Time limits under this subsection shall not be construed as jurisdictional.

(2) If the defendant fails to respond to the notice for preliminary hearing, the Court shall enter a default judgment ordering the immediate forfeiture of the animal in accordance with the provisions of subsection 353(c) of this title. A motion to reopen a default judgment shall be filed in writing with the Court no later than 30 days after entry of a default judgment. A default judgment shall not be reopened unless good cause is shown.

~~(f)(1)~~ At the hearing on the motion for forfeiture, the State shall have the burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence that the animal was subjected to cruelty, neglect, or abandonment in violation of section 352 or 352a of this title. The Court shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law and shall issue a final order. If the State meets its burden of proof, the ~~motion~~

~~shall be granted and the court~~ Court shall order the immediate forfeiture of the animal in accordance with the provisions of subsection 353(c) of this title.

(2) Affidavits of law enforcement officers, humane officers, animal control officers, veterinarians, or expert witnesses of either party shall be admissible evidence which may be rebutted by witnesses called by either party. The affidavits shall be delivered to the other party at least five days prior to the hearing. The Court may allow any witness to testify by telephone in lieu of a personal appearance and shall adopt rules with respect to such testimony.

(3) No testimony or other information presented by the defendant in connection with a forfeiture proceeding under this section or any information directly or indirectly derived from such testimony or other information may be used for any purpose, including impeachment and cross-examination, against the defendant in any criminal case, except a prosecution for perjury or giving a false statement.

(g)(1) If the defendant is convicted of criminal charges under this chapter or if an order of forfeiture is entered against an owner under this section, the defendant or owner shall be required to repay all reasonable costs incurred by the custodial caregiver for caring for the animal, including veterinary expenses. The Restitution Unit within the Center for Crime Victim Services is authorized to collect the funds owed by the defendant or owner on behalf of the custodial caregiver or a governmental agency that has contracted or paid for custodial care in the same manner as restitution is collected pursuant to section 7043 of this title. The restitution order shall include the information required under subdivision 7043(e)(2)(A) of this title. The Court shall make findings with respect to the total amount of all costs incurred by the custodial caregiver.

(2)(A) If the defendant is acquitted of criminal charges under this chapter and a civil forfeiture proceeding under this section is not pending, an animal that has been taken into custodial care shall be returned to the defendant unless the ~~state~~ State institutes a civil forfeiture proceeding under this section within seven days of the acquittal.

(B) If the Court rules in favor of the owner in a civil forfeiture proceeding under this section and criminal charges against the owner under this chapter are not pending, an animal that has been taken into custodial care shall be returned to the owner unless the State files criminal charges under this section within seven days after the entry of final judgment.

(C) If an animal is returned to a defendant or owner under this subdivision, the defendant or owner shall not be responsible for the costs of caring for the animal.

(h) ~~An order of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court~~ A forfeiture order issued under this section may be appealed as a matter of right to the Supreme Court. The order shall not be stayed pending appeal.

(i) The provisions of this section are in addition to and not in lieu of the provisions of section 353 of this title.

(j) It is unlawful for a person to interfere with a humane officer or the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets engaged in official duties under this chapter. A person who violates this subsection shall be prosecuted under section 3001 of this title.

Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 2404 is amended to read:

§ 2404. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY ~~FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED;~~
CASES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

* * *

(b) There shall be no monetary liability on the part of, and no cause of action for damages against, a veterinarian licensed to practice in this ~~state~~ State who accompanies a humane officer during the execution of a warrant pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 354, or evaluates the health of and provides medical attention to, including a decision for euthanasia, an animal brought to that veterinarian for health assessment or necessary medical care, pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 354.

* * *

Sec. 3. COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS; CARE OF ANIMALS

(a) Many states operate some kind of animal training or adoption program within their correctional system. These programs benefit local communities, teach the offenders responsibility, and provide an incentive to maintain positive behavior while incarcerated.

(b) The Commissioner of Corrections shall examine the feasibility of beginning an animal training or adoption program in Vermont and, specifically, a program that would permit qualified offenders to care for animals that have been relinquished or seized pursuant to a cruelty or neglect investigation. The Commissioner shall consider similar programs in other states and consult with local humane organizations in determining what type of program would be appropriate for Vermont and which facilities would be most appropriate to sponsor such a program. The Commissioner shall report his or her recommendations to the Joint Committee on Corrections Oversight on or before November 1, 2014.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 264.

An act relating to technical corrections to civil and criminal procedure statutes.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sears for the Committee on Judiciary.

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. 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(41) is amended to read:

(41) documents reviewed by the Victim's Compensation Board for purposes of approving an application for compensation pursuant to 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, except as provided by 13 V.S.A. §§ ~~5360~~ 5358a(b) and 7043(c).

Sec. 2. 4 V.S.A. § 1111 is added to read:

§ 1111. CIVIL VIOLATION; FAILURE TO PRODUCE IDENTIFICATION

(a) A law enforcement officer is authorized to detain a person if:

(1) the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the person has committed a civil violation of Title 7, 13, 18, or 23; and

(2) the person refuses to identify himself or herself satisfactorily to the officer when requested by the officer.

(b) The person may be detained under this section only until the person identifies himself or herself satisfactorily to the officer or is properly identified. If the officer is unable to obtain the identification information, the person shall forthwith be brought before a judge in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court for that purpose. A person who refuses to identify himself or herself to the Court on request shall immediately and without service of an order on the person be subject to civil contempt proceedings pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 122.

Sec. 2a. 18 V.S.A. § 4230a(e) is amended to read:

~~(e)(1) Upon request by a law enforcement officer who reasonably suspects that a person has committed or is committing a violation of this section, the person shall give his or her name and address to the law enforcement officer and shall produce a motor vehicle operator's license, an identification card, a passport, or another suitable form of identification.~~

~~(2)~~ A law enforcement officer is authorized to detain a person if:

(A) the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the person has violated this section; and

(B) the person refuses to identify himself or herself satisfactorily to the officer when requested by the officer.

~~(3)~~(2) The person may be detained only until the person identifies himself or herself satisfactorily to the officer or is properly identified. If the officer is unable to obtain the identification information, the person shall forthwith be brought before a judge in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court for that purpose. A person who refuses to identify himself or herself to the Court on request shall immediately and without service of an order on the person be subject to civil contempt proceedings pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 122.

Sec. 2b. 24 V.S.A. § 1983(b) is amended to read as follows:

(b) The person may be detained only until the person identifies himself or herself satisfactorily to the officer or is properly identified. If the officer is unable to obtain the identification information, the person shall forthwith be brought before a Criminal Division of the Superior Court judge for that purpose. A person who refuses to identify himself or herself to the Court on request shall immediately and without service of an order on the person be subject to civil contempt proceedings pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 122.

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. § 2292 is amended to read:

§ 2292. DEFENSES; LIABILITY AND PROTECTION OF TRANSFEREE

* * *

(e) A transfer is not voidable under subdivision 2288(a)(2) or section 2289 of this title if the transfer results from:

(1) termination of a lease upon default by the debtor when the termination is pursuant to the lease and applicable law;

(2) enforcement of a security interest in compliance with Article 9 of Title 9A; or

(3) foreclosure of a mortgage in compliance with subchapter 6 of chapter 163 or subchapter 1 of chapter 172 of Title 12.

* * *

Sec. 4. 12 V.S.A. § 2794 is amended to read:

§ 2794. EXECUTION UPON REAL ESTATE; HOMESTEAD A PART

When an execution is levied upon real estate of which the debtor's homestead is a part or upon that part of a homestead in excess of ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$125,000.00 in value, the location and boundaries of the homestead shall be ascertained before the sale and set out in the manner provided for the levy of execution upon real estate whereof a homestead forms a part.

Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 2651(3) is amended to read:

(3) "Commercial sex act" means any ~~sex~~ sexual act, sexual conduct, or sexually explicit performance on account of which anything of value is promised to, given to, or received by any person.

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 4474(b) is amended to read:

(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 this subdivision~~ As used in this subsection, "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. § 2056e~~ Center. 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~~ Department of Public Safety 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.

Sec. 7. 18 V.S.A. § 4474g(b) is amended to read:

(b) Prior to acting on an application for a registry identification card, the ~~department of public safety~~ Department of Public Safety shall obtain with respect to the applicant a Vermont criminal history record, an out-of-state criminal history record, and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Each applicant shall consent to the release of criminal history records to the ~~department~~ Department on forms ~~substantially similar to the~~

~~release forms developed in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 2056e by the Vermont Crime Information Center.~~

Sec. 8. 20 V.S.A. § 2056e(a) is amended to read:

(a) ~~The department of buildings and general services~~ Department of Buildings and General Services shall obtain from the Vermont ~~criminal information center~~ Crime Information Center a Vermont criminal record, an out-of-state criminal record, and a record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for any applicant for a ~~state~~ State security personnel position who has given written authorization, on a release form prescribed ~~under section 2056e of this chapter~~ by the Center, pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter and the user's agreement filed by the ~~commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services with the ~~center~~ Center. The user's agreement shall require the ~~department~~ Department to comply with all federal and ~~state~~ State statutes, rules, regulations, and policies regulating the release of criminal history records and the protection of individual privacy. The user's agreement shall be signed and kept current by the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner. Release of interstate and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history records is subject to the rules and regulations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center.

Sec. 9. 20 V.S.A. § 2056h is amended to read:

§ 2056h. DISSEMINATION OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION

(a) The Department of Financial Regulation shall obtain from the Vermont ~~Criminal~~ Crime Information Center a Vermont criminal record, an out-of-state criminal record, and a record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or any applicant for a banking division examiner position who has given written authorization, on a release form prescribed ~~under section 2056e of this chapter~~ by the Center, pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter and the user's agreement filed by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation with the ~~center~~ Center. The user's agreement shall require the Department to comply with all federal and State statutes, rules, regulations, and policies regulating the release of criminal history records, and the protection of individual privacy. The user's agreement shall be signed and kept current by the Commissioner. Release of interstate and ~~F.B.I.~~ FBI criminal history records is subject to the rules and regulations of the ~~F.B.I.'s~~ FBI's National Crime Information Center.

* * *

Sec. 10. 27 V.S.A. § 145 is amended to read:

§ 145. EFFECT OF SPOUSE JOINING IN MORTGAGE

If the homestead or lands included therein are mortgaged by the joint deed of husband and wife, the joining of the wife or husband in the mortgage shall have no other effect than to bar her or his claim to the homestead as against the mortgage. If the mortgage includes lands other than the homestead, and the owner thereof dies, the other lands shall be first sold by the executor or administrator and applied on the mortgage and the residue only shall rest on the homestead. When the ~~probate division of the superior court~~ Probate Division of the Superior Court orders the whole to be sold, the balance of the proceeds after the payment of the mortgage, not exceeding ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$125,000.00 shall be under the control of the ~~court~~ Court as in case of the sale of a homestead under this chapter.

Sec. 11. 27 V.S.A. § 182 is amended to read:

§ 182. APPLICATION TO SUPERIOR COURT FOR RELIEF

When a dwelling house, outbuildings, and lands in which a homestead right exists, exceed in value ~~\$75,000.00,~~ \$125,000.00 and a severance of the homestead would greatly depreciate the value of the residue of the premises or be of great inconvenience to the parties interested either in the residue or in the homestead, either party may apply for relief to the ~~superior court~~ Superior Court by a complaint setting forth the facts.

Sec. 12. 27 V.S.A. § 183 is amended to read:

§ 183. TRANSFER OR SALE IN LIEU OF SEVERANCE

When it appears upon hearing that such homestead cannot be occupied in severalty without great inconvenience to the parties interested therein or in such residue, the ~~court~~ Court may order such homestead to be transferred to such other parties and the payment of ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$125,000.00 to the owner thereof, or, at the option of the owner, ~~such court~~ the Court may order the parties to transfer such residue to him or her and order him or her thereupon to pay such other parties the value thereof to be fixed by the ~~court~~ Court. If the case requires, the ~~court~~ Court may order a sale of the whole premises and apportion the proceeds between the parties, and the ~~court~~ Court may make such orders in the premises as are equitable. If such homestead is sold, the ~~court~~ Court may control the investment of the proceeds of the sale in a new homestead or make such disposition thereof as equity requires.

Sec. 13. 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. 14, as amended by 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 3, is further amended to read:

Sec. 14. 13 V.S.A. § 5411a is amended to read:

§ 5411a. ELECTRONIC POSTING OF THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

* * *

(b) The ~~department~~ Department shall electronically post the following information ~~on~~ regarding sex offenders designated in subsection (a) of this section:

- (1) the offender's name and any known aliases;
- (2) the offender's date of birth;
- (3) a general physical description of the offender;
- (4) a digital photograph of the offender;
- (5) the offender's town of residence;
- (6) the date and nature of the offender's conviction;

(7) except as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the offender's address or, if the offender does not have a fixed address, other information about where the offender habitually lives, if:

(A) the offender has been designated as high risk by the Department of Corrections pursuant to section 5411b of this title;

(B) the offender has not complied with sex offender treatment;

(C) there is an outstanding warrant for the offender's arrest;

(D) the offender is subject to the Registry for a conviction of a sex offense against a child under 13 years of age; or

(E) the offender's name has been electronically posted for an offense committed in another jurisdiction which required the person's address to be electronically posted in that jurisdiction;

(8) if the offender is under the supervision of the Department of Corrections, the name and telephone number of the local Department of Corrections office in charge of monitoring the sex offender;

~~(8)~~(9) whether the offender complied with treatment recommended by the Department of Corrections;

~~(9)~~(10) a statement that there is an outstanding warrant for the offender's arrest, if applicable;

~~(10)~~(11) the reason for which the offender information is accessible under this section;

~~(11)~~(12) whether the offender has been designated ~~high-risk~~ high risk by the Department of Corrections pursuant to section 5411b of this title; and

~~(12)~~(13) if the offender has not been subject to a risk assessment, a statement that the offender has not been so assessed and that such a person is

presumed to be high risk, provided that the Department of Corrections shall permit a person subject to this subdivision to obtain a risk assessment at the person's own expense.

* * *

(d) ~~An offender's street address shall not be posted electronically.~~ The identity of a victim of an offense that requires registration shall not be released.

* * *

Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

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)

Glenn Boyde of Colchester – Member of the State Police Advisory Commission – By Sen. Pollina for the Committee on Government Operations. (2/19/14)

Lisa Gosselin of Stowe – Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development – By Sen. Doyle for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 – Room 10 – 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – Re: DR 14-742 Governance Structure for Education - House Committee on Education.

INFORMATION NOTICE

The Joint Fiscal Committee recently received the following items:

JFO #2668 – \$36,931,076 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to the Vermont Agency of Human Services. This award is a federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant. Funds will be used to improve the quality of early learning opportunities and close the achievement gap for children with high needs. Sixteen (16) limited service positions are associated with this request. In addition to the attached documents, over 400 pages of supporting documents were submitted with this request. This additional information is available on request from the Joint Fiscal Office. Expedited review of this item has been requested. Joint Fiscal Committee members will be contacted by March 14 with a request to waive the balance of the review period and approve this item.

[JFO received 02/20/14]

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).