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MEMORANDUM

March 10, 2014

TO: Representative Janet Ancel
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

FR: Christopher Winters, Esq.
Director of Professional Regulation

RE: Professional Regulation Bill (H.656) Fee provisions

H. 656, an act relating to professions and occupations, has passed out of the House Committee on Government Operations. In the bill, there are three sections relating to fees: one for funeral services, one for real estate professionals, and one for psychology.

Funeral Services

Section 7, Page 11
26 V.S.A. §1256; RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OR LICENSE

This section contains an amendment to include new fees for “limited services establishments” and “crematory personnel.”

As this committee knows, the OPR and the Funeral Services Board has also proposed fee changes across all license types for this profession to address an ongoing deficit in this Board’s budget. The intent of the new legislation regarding limited service establishments and crematory personnel is to have them pay the same fee as existing similar licensees such as funeral establishments and removal personnel.

Both the OPR bill and the fee bill will need to be monitored closely toward the end of the session to ensure that the fees are reconciled and are equitable as intended, depending on which bill passes first and in what form. Neither of the new license types is expected to generate any significant amount of revenue due to their limited numbers.

Real Estate

Section 15, Page 16
26 V.S.A. §2255; FEES

This section contains an amendment to clarify firm registration (in name only, no fiscal impact) and to eliminate the “sole proprietor” exemption for real estate forms with only one licensee. The stricken language is in both the Fee Bill and the OPR Bill and once again, will need to be reconciled at the end of the session depending upon what happens and in what order.

Psychology

Section 22, Page 21

26 V.S.A. §3010; FEES; LICENSES

This section is related to the removal of the designation of psychological trainee, instead opting to have these licensees register as psychotherapists while in training to become a psychologist. There is no significant fiscal impact for these few licensees to register in a different way.