

Act No. 167 (H.869). Judiciary; court procedures

An act relating to judicial organization and operations

This act proposes a number of measures related to the organization and operation of courts and the Judiciary. The act: authorizes the Administrative Judge to appoint a licensed Vermont lawyer to serve as a Judicial Master with the authority to hear and decide matters as a judge would in certain specified types of proceedings and cases; authorizes the Supreme Court to by rule designate a region of no more than four counties (excluding Essex and Orleans Counties) to serve as a “regional venue” for proceedings involving the termination of parental rights; provides that appeals in certain Licensing Board and Transportation Board matters are to be taken directly to the Vermont Supreme Court instead of to an intermediate body; and requires the Judiciary to discontinue use of its call center to respond to communications from Vermont attorneys by June 30, 2016.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 6, 2016