

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

H.103

Introduced by Representatives Townsend of South Burlington, Dakin of
Chester, Donovan of Burlington, Gonzalez of Winooski,
Krowinski of Burlington, Morris of Bennington, O’Sullivan of
Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Ryerson of Randolph, Sullivan
of Burlington, and Sweaney of Windsor

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Domestic relations; abuse prevention; emotional abuse

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a
person to obtain a relief from abuse order against a family or household
member based upon psychological abuse.

An act relating to psychological abuse

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

Sec. 1. 15 V.S.A. § 1101 is amended to read:

§ 1101. DEFINITIONS

The following words as used in this chapter shall have the following
meanings:

(1) “Abuse” means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts
between family or household members:

- 1 (A) Attempting to cause or causing physical harm.
- 2 (B) Placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm.
- 3 (C) Abuse to children as defined in 33 V.S.A. chapter 49,
4 ~~subchapter 2 of chapter 49 of Title 33.~~
- 5 (D) Stalking as defined in 12 V.S.A. § 5131(6).
- 6 (E) Sexual assault as defined in 12 V.S.A. § 5131(5).
- 7 (F) Psychological abuse.

8 * * *

9 (6) ~~“Family” shall include a reciprocal beneficiary~~ “Psychological
10 abuse” means the willful infliction of mental or emotional anguish by threats,
11 humiliation, intimidation, or other abusive conduct that is intended to demean,
12 frighten, intimidate, or isolate.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.