

H.434

An act relating to law enforcement and fire service training safety

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

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. Part 7A is added to read:

PART 7A.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE SERVICE TRAINING SAFETY

CHAPTER 185. TRAINING SAFETY COUNCIL

§ 3251. TRAINING SAFETY COUNCIL CREATED

(a) Creation. There is created a Training Safety Council to make recommendations regarding training safety at the Vermont Police Academy and the Vermont Fire Academy.

(b) Membership.

(1) The Council shall be composed of the following ten members:

(A) the Commissioner of Labor or his or her designee;

(B) the Risk Management Manager of the Office of Risk

Management within the Agency of Administration;

(C) the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council;

(D) the Chief Fire Service Training Officer of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council;

(E) one employee of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns who specializes in risk management, appointed by the Executive Director of the League;

(F) one member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, appointed by the President of the Association;

(G) one member of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police, appointed by the President of the Association;

(H) one member of the State Police, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety;

(I) one volunteer firefighter, appointed by the Vermont State Firefighters Association; and

(J) one full-time firefighter, appointed by the Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont, Inc.

(2) Members shall serve terms of two years and until their successors are appointed, with terms of office beginning on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancy in the office of a member for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(c) Powers and duties. The Council shall annually:

(1) on or before February 1, review the safety records of the Vermont Police Academy and the Vermont Fire Academy; and

(2) on or before July 1, submit to the Vermont Police Academy and the Vermont Fire Academy its recommendations regarding how training safety at those academies could be improved.

(d) Meetings.

(1) The Council shall biennially select a chair from among its members.

(2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(e) Assistance. The Council shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Labor.

(f) Compensation and expense reimbursement. Members of the Council who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

§ 3252. REVIEW OF TRAINING SAFETY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS; REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(a) The Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall review and consider the recommendations the Training Safety Council made to the Vermont Police Academy, and the Chief Fire Service Training Officer of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council shall review and consider the recommendations the Training Safety Council made to the Vermont Fire Academy, as those recommendations are described in section 3251 of this chapter.

(b)(1) Annually, on or before January 15, the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council and the Chief Fire Service Training Officer of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council shall separately report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Judiciary and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Judiciary regarding:

(A) any training safety issues he or she has discovered at the Vermont Police Academy or the Vermont Fire Academy, as applicable, and any steps he or she has taken to remedy those issues; and

(B) whether the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council or the Vermont Fire Service Training Council, as applicable, has instituted any of the Training Safety Council's recommendations for training safety and if not, the reasons therefor.

(2) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report required to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 2. INITIAL MEETING OF TRAINING SAFETY COUNCIL

The Commissioner of Labor shall call the initial meeting of the Training Safety Council set forth in 20 V.S.A. § 3251 in Sec. 1 of this act, to be held on or before September 30, 2015.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.