

Senate Calendar

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015

SENATE CONVENES AT: 9:30 A.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

ACTION CALENDAR

CONSIDERATION POSTPONED TO APRIL 1, 2015

Third Reading

- S. 29** An act relating to election day registration 602
PENDING QUESTION: Shall the bill be amended as moved by Sen.
Degree?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 27, 2015

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

- S. 20** An act relating to establishing and regulating licensed dental practitioners
Health and Welfare Report - Sen. Pollina 602
Government Operations Report - Sen. White 604
Finance Report - Sen. MacDonald 613

CALLED UP FOR ACTION

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

- S. 133** An act relating to an employee's use of benefits
Econ. Dev., Housing and General Affairs Report - Sen. Baruth 613

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

- S. 102** An act relating to forfeiture of property associated with an animal
fighting exhibition 614
H. 240 An act relating to miscellaneous technical corrections to laws
governing motor vehicles, motorboats, and other vehicles 614

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

- S. 55** An act relating to creating a flat rate for Vermont’s estate tax and creating an estate tax exclusion amount that matches the federal amount
Finance Report - Sen. Lyons614

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

- H. 123** An act relating to mobile home parks, habitability standards, and compliance
Econ. Dev., Housing and General Affairs Report - Sen. Cummings615

ORDERED TO LIE

- S. 62** An act relating to surrogate decision making for do-not-resuscitate orders and clinician orders for life-sustaining treatment.....619
- S. 137** An act relating to penalties for selling and dispensing marijuana.....619
- S. 139** An act relating to pharmacy benefit managers, hospital observation status, and chemicals of high concern to children.....619

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

CONSIDERATION POSTPONED TO APRIL 1, 2015

Third Reading

S. 29.

An act relating to election day registration.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the bill be amended as moved by Senator Degree?

(For text of the amendment see Senate Journal for March 27, 2015, page 337)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 20.

An act relating to establishing and regulating licensed dental practitioners.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Pollina for the Committee on Health & Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, in 26 V.S.A. § 561 (definitions), by striking out subdivision (8) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(8) “General supervision” means:

(A) For a dental practitioner with a Master’s degree or higher, a dentist’s supervision of a dental practitioner’s oral health care services that does not require the dentist to be on-site at the time those services are being performed, but that requires the dental practitioner to perform those services with the prior knowledge and consent of the dentist.

(B) For a dental practitioner with less than a Master’s degree:

(i) for the oral health care services set forth in subdivisions (b)(1)-(14), (16)-(19), and (34) of section 612 of this chapter, the supervision described in subdivision (8)(A) of this section; and

(ii) for all other oral health care services set forth in subsection 612(b) of this chapter that are not described in subdivision (i) of this

subdivision (B), supervision that requires the dentist to authorize those services and remain on-site while the dental practitioner performs them.

Second: In Sec. 1, in 26 V.S.A. § 611 (license by examination), in subdivision (a)(3), following “administered by an institution accredited” by inserting by the Commission on Dental Accreditation

Third: In Sec. 1, following § 611 (license by examination), by inserting § 611a to read as follows:

§ 611a. LICENSE BY ENDORSEMENT

The Board may grant a license as a dental practitioner to an applicant who:

(1) is currently licensed in good standing to practice as a dental practitioner or dental therapist in any jurisdiction of the United States or Canada that has licensing requirements deemed by the Board to be at least substantially equivalent to those of this State;

(2) has met active practice requirements and any other requirements established by the Board by rule; and

(3) pays the application fee set forth in section 662 of this chapter.

Fourth: By adding two new sections to be numbered Secs. 2 and 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. AFFILIATION WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

(a) License by endorsement. For the purposes of 26 V.S.A. § 611a (license by endorsement) in Sec. 1 of this act, a person licensed as a dental therapist in the State of Minnesota who has been certified by the Minnesota Board of Dentistry to practice as an advanced dental therapist shall be deemed to meet the requirements of 26 V.S.A. § 611a(1).

(b) Vermont State Colleges and University of Vermont.

(1) The Board of Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges shall and the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont may explore the potential of entering into an affiliation agreement with colleges in the State of Minnesota that have an accredited dental therapy program so that the college credits of a Vermont State College student or a University of Vermont student can transfer into such a program in order for the student to attend the program.

(2) On or before January 1, 2017, those Boards of Trustees shall report to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Government Operations and the House Committees on Health Care and on Government Operations regarding the efforts of the Boards and any success in reaching an affiliation agreement with the State of Minnesota.

Sec. 3. BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS; REPORT ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND GENERAL SUPERVISION OF DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

No earlier than two years after the effective date of this act but on or before January 1, 2018, the Board of Dental Examiners shall report to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Government Operations and the House Committees on Health Care and on Government Operations regarding:

(1) Geographic distribution.

(A) The geographic distribution of licensed dental practitioners practicing in this State.

(B) The geographic areas of this State that are underserved by licensed dental practitioners.

(C) The Board's recommended incentives to promote the practice of licensed dental practitioners in underserved areas of this State, particularly those areas that are rural in nature and have high numbers of people living in poverty.

(2) General supervision. The Board's analysis of the effectiveness of the requirement that a dental practitioner be under the general supervision of a dentist as described in 26 V.S.A. § 561, and any recommendations for amendments to that general supervision requirement. In its report, the Board shall address whether a dental practitioner should be able to practice under less stringent supervision requirements and if so, under what conditions.

And by renumbering the remaining section (Effective Date) to be numerically correct.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator White for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the report of the Committee on Health and Welfare be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. chapter 12 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 12. DENTISTS, DENTAL THERAPISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS, AND DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 561. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Board” means the ~~board of dental examiners~~ Board of Dental Examiners.

(2) “Director” means the ~~director of the office of professional regulation~~ Director of the Office of Professional Regulation.

(3) “Practicing dentistry” means an activity in which a person:

(A) undertakes by any means or method to diagnose or profess to diagnose or to treat or profess to treat or to prescribe for or profess to prescribe for any lesions, diseases, disorders, for deficiencies of the human oral cavity, teeth, gingiva, maxilla, or mandible or adjacent associated structures;

(B) extracts human teeth or corrects malpositions of the teeth or jaws;

(C) furnishes, supplies, constructs, reproduces, or repairs prosthetic dentures, bridges, appliances, or other structures to be used or worn as substitutes for natural teeth or adjusts those structures, except on the written prescription of a duly licensed dentist and by the use of impressions or casts made by a duly licensed and practicing dentist;

(D) administers general dental anesthetics;

(E) administers local dental anesthetics, except dental hygienists as authorized by ~~board~~ Board rule; or

(F) engages in any of the practices included in the curricula of recognized dental colleges.

(4) “Dental therapist” means an individual licensed to practice as a dental therapist under this chapter.

(5) “Dental hygienist” means an individual licensed to practice as a dental hygienist under this chapter.

~~(5)~~(6) “Dental assistant” means an individual registered to practice as a dental assistant under this chapter.

~~(6)~~(7) “Direct supervision” means supervision by a licensed dentist who is readily available at the dental facility for consultation or intervention.

(8) “General supervision” means the direct or indirect oversight of a dental therapist by a dentist, which need not be on-site.

§ 562. PROHIBITIONS

(a) No person may use in connection with a name any words, including “Doctor of Dental Surgery” or “Doctor of Dental Medicine,” or any letters,

signs, or figures, including the letters “D.D.S.” or “D.M.D.,” which imply that a person is a licensed dentist when not authorized under this chapter.

(b) No person may practice as a dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist unless currently licensed to do so under the provisions of this chapter.

(c) No person may practice as a dental assistant unless currently registered under the provisions of this chapter.

(d) A person who violates this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127.

* * *

§ 565. DISPLAY OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION

Every dentist, dental therapist, dental hygienist, and dental assistant shall display a copy of his or her current license or registration at each place of practice and in such a manner so as to be easily seen and read.

* * *

Subchapter 2. Board of Dental Examiners

* * *

§ 584. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The ~~board~~ Board may refuse to give an examination or issue a license to practice dentistry, to practice as a dental therapist, or to practice dental hygiene or to register an applicant to be a dental assistant and may suspend or revoke any such license or registration or otherwise discipline an applicant, licensee, or registrant for unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct means the following conduct and the conduct set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 129a by an applicant or person licensed or registered under this chapter:

* * *

Subchapter 3A. Dental Therapists

§ 611. LICENSE BY EXAMINATION

(a) Qualifications for examination. To be eligible for examination for licensure as a dental therapist, an applicant shall:

(1) have attained the age of majority;

(2) be a licensed dental hygienist;

(3) be a graduate of a dental therapist educational program administered by an institution accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation to train dentists or dental hygienists; and

(4) pay the application fee set forth in section 662 of this chapter and an examination fee established by the Board by rule.

(b) Completion of examination.

(1) An applicant for licensure meeting the qualifications for examination set forth in subsection (a) of this section shall pass a comprehensive, competency-based clinical examination approved by the Board and administered independently of an institution providing dental therapist education. An applicant shall also pass an examination testing the applicant's knowledge of the Vermont laws and rules relating to the practice of dentistry approved by the Board.

(2) An applicant who has failed the clinical examination twice is ineligible to retake the clinical examination until further education and training are obtained as established by the Board by rule.

(c) The Board may grant a license to an applicant who has met the requirements of this section.

§ 612. LICENSE BY ENDORSEMENT

The Board may grant a license as a dental therapist to an applicant who:

(1) is currently licensed in good standing to practice as a dental therapist in any jurisdiction of the United States or Canada that has licensing requirements deemed by the Board to be at least substantially equivalent to those of this State;

(2) has met active practice requirements and any other requirements established by the Board by rule; and

(3) pays the application fee set forth in section 662 of this chapter.

§ 613. PRACTICE; SCOPE OF PRACTICE

(a) A person who provides oral health care services, including prevention, evaluation, and assessment; education; palliative therapy; and restoration under the general supervision of a dentist within the parameters of a collaborative agreement as provided under section 614 of this subchapter shall be regarded as practicing as a dental therapist within the meaning of this chapter.

(b) In addition to services permitted by the Board by rule, a dental therapist may perform the following oral health care services:

(1) Oral health instruction and disease prevention education, including nutritional counseling and dietary analysis.

(2) Periodontal charting, including a periodontal screening examination.

- (3) Exposing radiographs.
- (4) Dental prophylaxis.
- (5) Prescribing, dispensing, and administering analgesics, anti-inflammatories, and antibiotics.
- (6) Applying topical preventive or prophylactic agents, including fluoride varnishes, antimicrobial agents, and pit and fissure sealants.
- (7) Pulp vitality testing.
- (8) Applying desensitizing medication or resin.
- (9) Fabricating athletic mouthguards.
- (10) Placement of temporary restorations.
- (11) Fabricating soft occlusal guards.
- (12) Tissue conditioning and soft reline.
- (13) Interim therapeutic restorations.
- (14) Changing periodontal dressings.
- (15) Tooth reimplantation and stabilization.
- (16) Administering local anesthetic.
- (17) Administering nitrous oxide.
- (18) Oral evaluation and assessment of dental disease.
- (19) Formulating an individualized treatment plan, including services within the dental therapist's scope of practice and referral for services outside the dental therapist's scope of practice.
- (20) Extractions of primary teeth.
- (21) Nonsurgical extractions of periodontally diseased permanent teeth with tooth mobility of +3. A dental therapist shall not extract a tooth if it is unerupted, impacted, fractured, or needs to be sectioned for removal.
- (22) Emergency palliative treatment of dental pain.
- (23) Placement and removal of space maintainers.
- (24) Cavity preparation.
- (25) Restoring primary and permanent teeth, not including permanent tooth crowns, bridges, or denture fabrication.
- (26) Placement of temporary crowns.

(27) Preparation and placement of preformed crowns.

(28) Pulpotomies on primary teeth.

(29) Indirect and direct pulp capping on primary and permanent teeth.

(30) Suture removal.

(31) Brush biopsies.

(32) Repairing defective prosthetic devices.

(33) Recementing permanent crowns.

(34) Mechanical polishing.

§ 614. COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

(a) Before a dental therapist may enter into his or her first collaborative agreement, he or she shall:

(1) complete 1,000 hours of direct patient care using dental therapy procedures under the direct supervision of a dentist; and

(2) receive a certificate of completion signed by that supervising dentist that verifies the dental therapist completed the hours described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(b) In order to practice as a dental therapist, a dental therapist shall enter into a written collaborative agreement with a dentist. The agreement shall include:

(1) practice settings where services may be provided and the populations to be served;

(2) any limitations on the services that may be provided by the dental therapist, including the level of supervision required by the supervising dentist;

(3) age- and procedure-specific practice protocols, including case selection criteria, assessment guidelines, and imaging frequency;

(4) a procedure for creating and maintaining dental records for the patients that are treated by the dental therapist;

(5) a plan to manage medical emergencies in each practice setting where the dental therapist provides care;

(6) a quality assurance plan for monitoring care provided by the dental therapist, including patient care review, referral follow-up, and a quality assurance chart review;

(7) protocols for prescribing, administering, and dispensing medications, including the specific conditions and circumstances under which these medications may be dispensed and administered;

(8) criteria relating to the provision of care to patients with specific medical conditions or complex medication histories, including requirements for consultation prior to the initiation of care;

(9) supervision criteria of dental assistants and dental hygienists; and

(10) a plan for the provision of clinical resources and referrals in situations that are beyond the capabilities of the dental therapist.

(c)(1) The supervising dentist shall accept responsibility for all services authorized and performed by the dental therapist pursuant to the collaborative agreement.

(2) A supervising dentist shall be licensed and practicing in Vermont.

(3) A supervising dentist is limited to entering into a collaborative agreement with no more than two dental therapists at any one time.

(d)(1) A collaborative agreement shall be signed and maintained by the supervising dentist and the dental therapist.

(2) A collaborative agreement shall be reviewed, updated, and submitted to the Board on an annual basis or as soon as a change is made to the agreement.

§ 615. APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS

(a) A dental therapist authorized to practice under this chapter shall not be in violation of section 562 of this chapter as it relates to the unauthorized practice of dentistry if the practice is authorized under this chapter and under the collaborative agreement.

(b) A dentist who permits a dental therapist to perform a dental service other than those authorized under this chapter or by the Board by rule or any dental therapist who performs an unauthorized service shall be in violation of section 584 of this chapter.

§ 616. USE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND DENTAL ASSISTANTS

(a) A licensed dental therapist may supervise dental assistants and dental hygienists directly to the extent permitted in the collaborative agreement.

(b) At any one practice setting, a licensed dental therapist may have under his or her direct supervision no more than a total of two assistants, hygienists, or combination thereof.

§ 617. REFERRALS

(a) The supervising dentist is responsible for arranging for another dentist or specialist to provide any necessary services needed by a patient that are beyond the scope of practice of the dental therapist and which the supervising dentist is unable to provide.

(b) A dental therapist, in accordance with the collaborative agreement, shall refer patients to another qualified dental or health care professional to receive any needed services that exceed the scope of practice of the dental therapist.

* * *

Subchapter 6. Renewals, Continuing Education, and Fees

§ 661. RENEWAL OF LICENSE

(a) Licenses and registrations shall be renewed every two years on a schedule determined by the ~~office of professional regulation~~ Office of Professional Regulation.

(b) No continuing education reporting is required at the first biennial license renewal date following licensure.

(c) The ~~board~~ Board may waive continuing education requirements for licensees who are on active duty in the ~~armed forces of the United States~~ U.S. Armed Forces.

(d) Dentists.

* * *

(e) Dental therapists. To renew a license, a dental therapist shall meet active practice requirements established by the Board by rule and document completion of no fewer than 20 hours of Board-approved continuing professional education which shall include an emergency office procedures course during the two-year licensing period preceding renewal.

(f) Dental hygienists. To renew a license, a dental hygienist shall meet active practice requirements established by the ~~board~~ Board by rule and document completion of no fewer than 18 hours of ~~board-approved~~ Board-approved continuing professional education which shall include an emergency office procedures course during the two-year licensing period preceding renewal.

~~(f)~~(g) Dental assistants. To renew a registration, a dental assistant shall meet the requirements established by the ~~board~~ Board by rule.

§ 662. FEES

(a) Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application

(A) Dentist	\$ 225.00
(B) <u>Dental therapist</u>	<u>\$ 185.00</u>
<u>(C)</u> Dental hygienist	\$ 150.00
(C) <u>(D)</u> Dental assistant	\$ 60.00

(2) Biennial renewal

(A) Dentist	\$ 355.00
(B) <u>Dental therapist</u>	<u>\$ 225.00</u>
<u>(C)</u> Dental hygienist	\$ 125.00
(C) <u>(D)</u> Dental assistant	\$ 75.00

(b) The licensing fee for a dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist or the registration fee for a dental assistant who is otherwise eligible for licensure or registration and whose practice in this ~~state~~ State will be limited to providing pro bono services at a free or reduced-fee clinic or similar setting approved by the ~~board~~ Board shall be waived.

* * *

Sec. 2. COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION; EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision set forth in Sec. 1 of this act, in 26 V.S.A. § 611(a)(3) (license by examination; graduate), that requires accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, shall take effect once that accreditation from the Commission becomes available.

Sec. 3. BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS; REPORT ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF DENTAL THERAPISTS

No earlier than two years after the effective date of this act but on or before January 1, 2020, the Board of Dental Examiners shall report to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Government Operations and the House Committees on Health Care and on Government Operations regarding:

(1) the geographic distribution of licensed dental therapists practicing in this State;

(2) the geographic areas of this State that are underserved by licensed dental therapists; and

(3) The Board's recommended incentives to promote the practice of licensed dental therapists in underserved areas of this State, particularly those areas that are rural in nature and have high numbers of people living in poverty.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to establishing and regulating dental therapists.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

Reported without recommendation by Senator MacDonald for the Committee on Finance.

(Committee voted: 3-2-2)

CALLED UP FOR ACTION

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 133.

An act relating to an employee's use of benefits.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended in Sec. 2, 21 V.S.A. § 495j by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a) An employer, employment agency, or labor organization shall not discharge or penalize an employee because the employee has used, or attempted to use, accrued employer-provided sick leave or other employer-provided benefits.

(Committee vote: 3-0-2)

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 102.

An act relating to forfeiture of property associated with an animal fighting exhibition.

H. 240.

An act relating to miscellaneous technical corrections to laws governing motor vehicles, motorboats, and other vehicles.

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 55.

An act relating to creating a flat rate for Vermont's estate tax and creating an estate tax exclusion amount that matches the federal amount.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 4 (Vermont gross estate in 2017), by striking out the words "one year" before "of death" and inserting in lieu thereof the words two years.

Second: In Sec. 5 (Vermont gross estate in 2019), by striking out the words "one year" before "of death" and inserting in lieu thereof the words three years.

Third: In Sec. 6 (effective dates), in subsection (a), by striking out "retroactively on January 1, 2015" and inserting in lieu thereof on January 1, 2016 and by striking out "December 31, 2014" and inserting in lieu thereof December 31, 2015.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 123.

An act relating to mobile home parks, habitability standards, and compliance.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 6205 is amended to read:

§ 6205. ENFORCEMENT; PENALTIES

~~(a) Any person who violates or fails to comply with this chapter or with any conditions, restrictions, or limitations contained in a permit issued under this chapter shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both~~ A mobile home park owner who violates or fails to comply with a provision of this chapter violates 9 V.S.A. § 2453.

~~(b) The superior court for the county in which a violation of this chapter occurs shall have jurisdiction, on application by the department in the case of violations of sections 6236-6243 of this title, to enjoin and restrain the violation, but any election by the department to proceed under this subsection shall not limit or restrict the authority of the state to prosecute for the offense under subsection (a) of this section~~ If a mobile home park owner violates this chapter, the Department shall have the authority:

(1) to impose an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation;

(2) to bring a civil action for damages or injunctive relief, or both, in the Superior Court for the unit in which a violation occurred; and

(3) to refer a violation to the Attorney General or State's Attorney for enforcement pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

~~(c)(1)~~ A leaseholder may bring an action against the park owner for a violation of sections 6236-6243 of this title.

~~(2)~~ The action shall be filed in ~~superior court~~ Superior Court for the unit in which the alleged violation occurred.

~~(3)~~ No action may be commenced by the leaseholder unless the leaseholder has first notified the park owner of the violation by certified mail at least 30 days prior to bringing the action.

(4) During the pendency of an action brought by a leaseholder, the leaseholder shall pay rent in an amount designated in the lease, or as provided by law, which rental amount shall be deposited in an escrow account as directed by the ~~court~~ Court.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. chapter 153, subchapter 3 is amended to read:

Subchapter 3. Habitability

* * *

§ 6262. PARK OWNER OBLIGATIONS; WARRANTY OF HABITABILITY; RULES

(a) In any lot rental agreement, the park owner shall be deemed to covenant and warrant to deliver over and maintain, throughout the period of the tenancy, premises which are safe, clean, and fit for human habitation. This warranty requires the park owner to provide adequate and reliable utility services, including safe electrical service, potable water, and sewage disposal to a location on each lot from which these utilities can be connected to the mobile home. The warranty also requires the park owner to assure that the roads, common areas, and facilities within the mobile home park are safe and fit for the purpose for which they were reasonably intended.

(b) ~~The department~~ Department, in cooperation with the ~~agency of natural resources, the department of public safety and the department of health~~ Agency of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Health, shall, by rule, adopt standards for safety, cleanliness and fitness for human habitation regarding the rental of a mobile home lot within a mobile home park.

(c) No rental agreement shall contain any provision by which the leaseholder waives the protections of the implied warranty of habitability. Any such waiver shall be deemed contrary to public policy and shall be unenforceable and void.

§ 6263. HABITABILITY; LEASEHOLDER REMEDIES

(a)(1) If the mobile home park owner fails to comply with the obligation of habitability, the park owner shall be deemed to have notice of the noncompliance if the park owner receives actual notice of the noncompliance from the leaseholder, a governmental entity, or a qualified independent inspector.

(2) If the park owner has received notice from any of those sources and fails to make repairs within a reasonable time and the noncompliance materially affects health and safety, the leaseholder may pursue any of the following remedies:

~~(1)(A) Withhold~~ withhold payment of lot rent during the period of the noncompliance;

~~(2)(B) Obtain~~ obtain injunctive relief;

~~(3)(C) Recover~~ recover damages, costs, and reasonable ~~attorney~~ attorney's fees; or

~~(4)(D) Terminate~~ terminate the rental agreement on reasonable notice.

(b)(1) For purposes of subdivision (a)(2) of this section, a mobile home park owner's failure to maintain the roads within a mobile home park in a condition that reasonably ensures access by emergency vehicles shall be deemed noncompliance that materially affects health and safety.

(2) This subsection does not require a mobile home park owner to create a new road or other improvement, or to modify an existing road or other improvement, within an existing mobile home park.

(c) The remedies under this section are not available to a leaseholder if the noncompliance was caused by the negligent or deliberate act or omission of the leaseholder or of a person on the premises with the leaseholder's consent.

§ 6264. MINOR DEFECTS; REPAIR AND DEDUCT

(a)(1) If the park owner fails to repair a minor defect or noncompliance with this chapter or noncompliance with a material provision of the rental agreement within 30 days of receipt of written notice, the leaseholder may repair the defect or noncompliance and deduct from the rent the actual and reasonable cost, not to exceed one-half of one month's lot rent.

(2) No major work on water, sewer, or electrical systems may be performed under this section.

(3) The leaseholder shall provide the owner with written notice of the cost of the repair or service when the cost is deducted from the rent.

(4) The leaseholder shall be responsible for any damage caused by the repair or attempts to repair.

(b) The remedies under this section are not available to a leaseholder if the noncompliance was caused by the negligent or deliberate act or omission of the leaseholder or a person on the premises with the leaseholder's consent.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 6237 is amended to read:

§ 6237. EVICTIONS

* * *

(e) A judgment order of eviction pursuant to this section shall provide that a leaseholder shall sell a mobile home or remove a mobile home from the mobile home park:

(1) within three months from the date of execution of a writ of possession pursuant to 12 V.S.A. chapter 169; or

(2) within another period ordered by the court in its discretion.

(f) A leaseholder evicted pursuant to this section shall continue to be responsible for lot rent that accrues until the mobile home is sold or removed from the mobile home park.

(g) A park owner shall serve notice of eviction proceedings pursuant to this section and 12 V.S.A. chapter 169 to the leaseholder and to any occupants known to the park owner residing in the mobile home.

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 6248 is amended to read:

§ 6248. ABANDONMENT OF MOBILE HOME IN MOBILE HOME PARK

(a) A resident or owner of a mobile home in a mobile home park shall be deemed to have abandoned the mobile home if all the following conditions exist:

~~(1)(A)~~ A a reasonable person would believe that the mobile home is not occupied as a residence;

~~(2)(B)~~ The the rent for the lot is at least 30 days delinquent; and

~~(3)(C)~~ The the park owner has attempted to contact the resident or owner at the resident or owner's home, last known place of employment, and last known mailing address without success; or

(2) the owner of the mobile home has been evicted from the mobile home park pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6237 and the owner has failed to remove or sell the mobile home within three months after the execution of a writ of possession pursuant to 12 V.S.A. chapter 169 or as otherwise ordered by the court in the ejection action.

~~(b) Abandonment of a mobile home shall be deemed to be a substantial violation of the lease terms and may result in immediate eviction proceedings.~~

~~(e)~~ A mobile home park owner may not commence an action pursuant to section 6249 of this title to sell an abandoned mobile home on which there are

delinquent property taxes until 20 days after the date the park owner sends notice of the park owner's intent to commence the action to the town clerk and the tax collector of the town in which the mobile home is located by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 18, 2015, page 458.)

ORDERED TO LIE

S. 62.

An act relating to surrogate decision making for do-not-resuscitate orders and clinician orders for life-sustaining treatment.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the bill be amended as recommended the Committee on Health and Welfare?

S. 137.

An act relating to penalties for selling and dispensing marijuana.

PENDING ACTION: Committee Bill for Second Reading

S. 139.

An act relating to pharmacy benefit managers, hospital observation status, and chemicals of high concern to children.

PENDING ACTION: Committee Bill for Second Reading

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.

Robert Ide of Peacham – Commissioner, Department of Motor Vehicles – By Sen. Kitchel for the Committee on Transportation. (3/12/15)

Sue Minter of Waterbury Center – Secretary, Agency of Transportation – By Sen. Westman for the Committee on Transportation. (3/13/15)

Patricia Moulton of Montpelier – Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development – By Sen. Balint for the Committee on Econ. Dev., Housing and General Affairs. (3/24/15)

Noelle MacKay of Shelburne – Commissioner, Department of Housing and Community Development – By Sen. Balint for the Committee on Econ. Dev., Housing and General Affairs. (3/24/15)

Annie Noonan of Montpelier – Commissioner, Department of Labor - By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Econ. Dev., Housing and General Affairs. (3/24/15)

Megan Smith of Mendon – Commissioner, Department of Tourism and Marketing – By Sen. Mullin for the Committee on Econ. Dev., Housing and General Affairs. (3/24/15)

Andrew Pallito of Jericho – Commissioner, Department of Corrections – By Sen. Mazza for the Committee on Institutions. (3/24/15)

Michael Obuchowski of Montpelier – Commissioner, Department of Buildings and General Services – By Sen. Balint for the Committee on Institutions. (3/24/15)

Maribeth Spellman of Richmond – Commissioner, Department of Human Resources – By Sen. Collamore for the Committee on Government Operations. (3/24/15)

Rebecca Holcombe of Norwich – Secretary of Education – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Education. (3/24/15)

Harry Chen, M.D. of Burlington – Commissioner of Health – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (3/25/15)

Steven Costantino of Providence, RI – Commissioner of the Department of Health Access – By Sen. Pollina for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (3/25/15)

Kenneth Schatz of Burlington – Commissioner, Department for Children and Families – By Sen. Pollina for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (3/25/15)

Susan Wehry of Burlington – Commissioner, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living – By Sen. Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (3/25/15)

Paul Dupre of Barre – Commissioner, Department of Mental Health – By Sen. Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (3/25/15)

James Reardon of Essex Junction – Commissioner, Department of Finance and Management – By Sen. Collamore for the Committee on Government Operations. (3/27/15)

Justin Johnson of Barre – Secretary, Agency of Administration – By Sen. Pollina for the Committee on Government Operations. (3/31/15)

REPORTS ON FILE

Reports 2015

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §20(c), one (1) hard copy of the following report is on file in the office of the Secretary of the Senate. Effective January 2010, pursuant to Act No. 192, Adj. Sess. (2008) §5.005(g) some reports will automatically be sent by electronic copy only and can be found on the State of Vermont Legislative webpage.

1. Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2014. (Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets) (March 2015)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CROSSOVER DEADLINES

The Senate 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 13, 2015**, 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 20, 2015**, 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: Pursuant to Senate Rule 44A, 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).