

Journal of the House

Thursday, May 7, 2015

At one o'clock in the afternoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Speaker.

House Bill Introduced

H. 509

Reps. Russell of Rutland City introduced a bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting smoking outside apartment buildings

Which was read the first time and referred to the committee on Human Services.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 37

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the safety and regulation of dams

Appearing on the Calendar, affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule, was referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 58

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring that the Defender General receive the same early retirement benefit as a State's Attorney

Appearing on the Calendar, carrying an appropriation, under rule 35a, was referred to the committee on Appropriations.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 138

House bill, entitled

An act relating to promoting economic development

Carrying an appropriation, under rule 35a, was referred to the committee on Appropriations.

Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

S. 73

Rep. Dakin of Colchester, for the committee on Commerce & Economic Development, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to State regulation of rent-to-own agreements for merchandise

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment as follows:

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Consumer Rent-to-Own Agreements * * *

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. § 41b is amended to read:

§ 41b. RENT-TO-OWN AGREEMENTS; DISCLOSURE OF TERMS

~~(a) The attorney general shall adopt by rule standards for the full and conspicuous disclosure to consumers of the terms of rent-to-own agreements. For purposes of this section a rent to own agreement means an agreement for the use of merchandise by a consumer for personal, family, or household purposes, for an initial period of four months or less, that is renewable with each payment after the initial period and that permits the lessee to become the owner of the property. An agreement that complies with this article is not a retail installment sales contract, agreement or obligation as defined in this chapter or a security interest as defined in section 1-201(37) of Title 9A.~~

~~(b) The attorney general, or an aggrieved person, may enforce a violation of the rules adopted pursuant to this section as an unfair or deceptive act or practice in commerce under section 2453 of this title.~~

(a) Definitions. In this section:

(1) "Advertisement" means a commercial message that solicits a consumer to enter into a rent-to-own agreement for a specific item of merchandise that is conveyed:

(A) at a merchant's place of business;

(B) on a merchant's website; or

(C) on television or radio.

(2) “Cash price” means the price of merchandise available under a rent-to-own agreement that the consumer may pay in cash to the merchant at the inception of the agreement to acquire ownership of the merchandise.

(3) “Clear and conspicuous” means that the statement or term being disclosed is of such size, color, contrast, or audibility, as applicable, so that the nature, content, and significance of the statement or term is reasonably apparent to the person to whom it is disclosed.

(4) “Consumer” has the same meaning as in subsection 2451a(a) of this title.

(5) “Merchandise” means an item of a merchant’s property that is available for use under a rent-to-own agreement. The term does not include:

(A) real property;

(B) a mobile home, as defined in section 2601 of this title;

(C) a motor vehicle, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4;

(D) an assistive device, as defined in section 41c of this title; or

(E) a musical instrument intended to be used primarily in an elementary or secondary school.

(6) “Merchant” means a person who offers, or contracts for, the use of merchandise under a rent-to-own agreement.

(7) “Merchant’s cost” means the documented actual cost, including actual freight charges, of merchandise to the merchant from a wholesaler, distributor, supplier, or manufacturer and net of any discounts, rebates, and incentives that are vested and calculable as to a specific item of merchandise at the time the merchant accepts delivery of the merchandise.

(8)(A) “Rent-to-own agreement” means a contract under which a consumer agrees to pay a merchant for the right to use merchandise and acquire ownership, which is renewable with each payment after the initial period, and which remains in effect until:

(i) the consumer returns the merchandise to the merchant;

(ii) the merchant retakes possession of the merchandise; or

(iii) the consumer pays the total cost and acquires ownership of the merchandise.

(B) A “rent-to-own agreement” as defined in subdivision (7)(A) of this subsection is not:

- (i) a sale subject to 9A V.S.A. Article 2;
- (ii) a lease subject to 9A V.S.A. Article 2A;
- (iii) a security interest as defined in subdivision 9A V.S.A. § 1-201(a)(35); or
- (iv) a retail installment contract or retail charge agreement as defined in chapter 61 of this title.

(9) “Rent-to-own charge” means the difference between the total cost and the cash price of an item of merchandise.

(10) “Total cost” means the sum of all payments, charges, and fees that a consumer must pay to acquire ownership of merchandise under a rent-to-own agreement. The term does not include charges or fees for optional services or charges or fees due only upon the occurrence of a contingency specified in the agreement.

(b) General requirements.

(1) Prior to execution, a merchant shall give a consumer the opportunity to review a written copy of a rent-to-own agreement that includes all of the information required by this section for each item of merchandise covered by the agreement and shall not refuse a consumer’s request to review the agreement with a third party, either inside the merchant’s place of business or at another location.

(2) A disclosure required by this section shall be clear and conspicuous.

(3) In a rent-to-own agreement, a merchant shall state a numerical amount or percentage as a figure and shall print or legibly handwrite the figure in the equivalent of 12-point type or greater.

(4) A merchant may supply information not required by this section with the disclosures required by this section, but shall not state or place additional information in such a way as to cause the required disclosures to be misleading or confusing, or to contradict, obscure, or detract attention from the required disclosures.

(5) Except for price cards on site, a merchant shall preserve an advertisement, or a digital copy of the advertisement, for not less than two years after the date the advertisement appeared. In the case of a radio, television, or Internet advertisement, a merchant may preserve a copy of the script or storyboard.

(6) Subject to availability, a merchant shall make merchandise that is advertised available to all consumers on the terms and conditions that appear in the advertisement.

(7) A rent-to-own agreement that is substantially modified, including a change that increases the consumer's payments or other obligations or diminishes the consumer's rights, shall be considered a new agreement subject to the requirements of this chapter.

(8) For each rent-to-own agreement, a merchant shall keep the following information in an electronic or hard copy for a period of four years following the date the agreement ends:

(A) the rent-to-own agreement covering the item; and

(B) a record that establishes the merchant's cost for the item.

(9) A rent-to-own agreement executed by a merchant doing business in Vermont and a resident of Vermont shall be governed by Vermont law.

(c) Cash price; reduction for used merchandise; maximum limits.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the maximum cash price for an item of merchandise shall not exceed:

(A) for an appliance, 1.75 times the merchant's cost;

(B) for an item of electronics that has a merchant's cost of less than \$150.00, 1.75 times the merchant's cost;

(C) for an item of electronics that has a merchant's cost of \$150.00 or more, 2.00 times the merchant's cost;

(D) for an item of furniture or jewelry, 2.50 times the merchant's cost; and

(E) for any other item, 2.00 times the merchant's cost.

(2)(A) The cash price for an item of merchandise that has been previously used by a consumer shall be at least 10 percent less than the cash price calculated under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(B) The merchant shall reduce the amount of the periodic payment in a rent-to-own agreement by the percentage of the cash price reduction for previously used merchandise established by the merchant.

(3) The total cost for an item of merchandise shall not exceed two times the maximum cash price for the item.

(d) Disclosures in advertising; prohibited disclosures.

(1) An advertisement that refers to or states the dollar amount of any payment for merchandise shall state:

(A) the cash price of the item;

(B) that the merchandise is available under a rent-to-own agreement;

(C) the amount, frequency, and total number of payments required for ownership;

(D) the total cost for the item;

(E) the rent-to-own charge for the item; and

(F) that the consumer will not own the merchandise until the consumer pays the total cost for ownership.

(2) A merchant shall not advertise that no credit check is required or performed, or that all consumers are approved for transactions, if the merchant subjects the consumer to a credit check.

(e) Disclosures on site. In addition to the information required in subsection (d) of this section, an advertisement at a merchant's place of business shall include:

(1) whether the item is new or used; and

(2) when the merchant acquired the item.

(f) Disclosures in rent-to-own agreement.

(1) The first page of a rent-to-own agreement shall include:

(A) a heading and clause in bold-face type that reads: "IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RENT-TO-OWN AGREEMENT. Do Not Sign this Agreement Before You Read It or If It Contains any Blank Spaces. You have a Right to Review this Agreement or Compare Costs Away from the Store Before You Sign."; and

(B) the following information in the following order:

(i) the name, address, and contact information of the merchant;

(ii) the name, address, and contact information of the consumer;

(iii) the date of the transaction;

(iv) a description of the merchandise sufficient to identify the merchandise to the consumer and the merchant, including any applicable model and identification numbers;

(v) a statement whether the merchandise is new or used, and in the case of used merchandise, a statement that the merchandise is in good working order, is clean, and is free of any infestation.

(2) A rent-to-own agreement shall include the following cost disclosures, printed and grouped as indicated below, immediately preceding the signature lines:

(1) Cash Price: _____ \$ _____

(2) Payments required to become owner:

\$ _____ / (weekly)(biweekly)(monthly) × (# of payments) = \$ _____

(3) Mandatory charges and fees required to become owner (itemize):

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Total required ~~taxes,~~ fees and charges: \$ _____

(4) Total cost: _____ (2) + (3) = \$ _____

(5) Rent-to-Own Charge: _____ (4) - (1) = \$ _____

(6) Tax _____ = \$ _____

(7) DO NOT SIGN BEFORE READING THIS AGREEMENT CAREFULLY

(g) Required provisions of rent-to-own agreement. A rent-to-own agreement shall provide:

(1) a statement of payment due dates;

(2) a line-item list of any other charges or fees the consumer could be charged or have the option of paying in the course of acquiring ownership or during or after the term of the agreement;

(3) that the consumer will not own the merchandise until he or she makes all of the required payments for ownership;

(4) that the consumer has the right to receive a receipt for a payment and, upon reasonable notice, a written statement of account;

(5) who is responsible for service, maintenance, and repair of an item of merchandise;

(6) that, except in the case of the consumer's negligence or abuse, if the merchant, during the term of the agreement, must retake possession of the

merchandise for maintenance, repair, or service, or the item cannot be repaired, the merchant is responsible for providing the consumer with a replacement item of equal quality and comparable design;

(7) that the maximum amount of the consumer's liability for damage or loss to the merchandise is limited to an amount equal to the cash price multiplied by the ratio of:

(A) the number of payments remaining to acquire ownership under the agreement; to

(B) the total number of payments necessary to acquire ownership under the agreement.

(8) a statement that if any part of a manufacturer's express warranty covers the merchandise at the time the consumer acquires ownership the merchant shall transfer the warranty to the consumer if allowed by the terms of the warranty;

(9) a description of any damage waiver or insurance purchased by the consumer, or a statement that the consumer is not required to purchase any damage waiver or insurance;

(10) an explanation of the consumer's options to purchase the merchandise;

(11) an explanation of the merchant's right to repossess the merchandise; and

(12) an explanation of the parties' respective rights to terminate the agreement, and to reinstate the agreement.

(h) Warranties.

(1) Upon transfer of ownership of merchandise to a consumer, a merchant shall transfer to the consumer any manufacturer's or other warranty on the merchandise.

(2) A merchant creates an implied warranty to a consumer, which may not be waived, in the following circumstances:

(A) an affirmation of fact or promise made by the merchant to the consumer which relates to merchandise creates an implied warranty that the merchandise will substantially conform to the affirmation or promise;

(B) a description of the merchandise by the merchant creates an implied warranty that the merchandise will substantially conform to the description; and

(C) a sample or model exhibited to the consumer by the merchant creates an implied warranty that the merchandise actually delivered to the consumer will substantially conform to the sample or model.

(i) Maintenance and repairs.

(1) During the term of a rent-to-own agreement, the merchant shall maintain the merchandise in good working condition.

(2) If a repair cannot be completed within three days, the merchant shall provide a replacement to the consumer to use until the original merchandise is repaired. Replacement merchandise shall be at least comparable in quality, age, condition, and warranty coverage to the replaced original merchandise.

(3) A merchant is not required to repair or replace merchandise that has been damaged as a result of negligence or an intentional act by the consumer.

(j) Prohibited provisions of rent-to-own agreement. A rent-to-own agreement shall not include any of the following provisions, which shall be void and unenforceable:

(1) a provision requiring a confession of judgment;

(2) a provision requiring a garnishment of wages;

(3) a provision requiring arbitration or mediation of a claim that otherwise meets the jurisdictional requirements of a small claims proceeding under 12 V.S.A. chapter 187;

(4) a provision authorizing a merchant or its agent to enter unlawfully upon the consumer's premises or to commit any breach of the peace in the repossession of property;

(5) a provision requiring the consumer to waive any defense, counterclaim, or right of action against the merchant or its agent in collection of payment under the agreement or in the repossession of property; or

(6) a provision requiring the consumer to purchase a damage waiver or insurance from the merchant to cover the property.

(k) Option to purchase. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, at any time after the first payment a consumer who is not in violation of a rent-to-own agreement may acquire ownership of the merchandise covered by the agreement by paying an amount equal to the cash price of the merchandise minus 50 percent of the value of the consumer's previous payments.

(l) Payment; notice of default. If a consumer fails to make a timely payment required in a rent-to-own agreement, the merchant shall deliver to the consumer a notice of default and right to reinstate the agreement at least 14 days before the merchant commences a civil action to collect amounts the consumer owes under the agreement.

(m) Collections; repossession of merchandise; prohibited acts. When attempting to collect a debt or enforce an obligation under a rent-to-own agreement, a merchant shall not:

(1) call or visit a consumer's workplace after a request by the consumer or his or her employer not to do so;

(2) use profanity or any language to abuse, ridicule, or degrade a consumer;

(3) repeatedly call, leave messages, knock on doors, or ring doorbells;

(4) ask someone, other than a spouse, to make a payment on behalf of a consumer;

(5) obtain payment through a consumer's bank, credit card, or other account without authorization;

(6) speak with a consumer more than six times per week to discuss an overdue account;

(7) engage in violence;

(8) trespass;

(9) call or visit a consumer at home or work after receiving legal notice that the consumer has filed for bankruptcy;

(10) impersonate others;

(11) discuss a consumer's account with anyone other than a spouse of the consumer;

(12) threaten unwarranted legal action; or

(13) leave a recorded message for a consumer that includes anything other than the caller's name, contact information, and a courteous request that the consumer return the call.

(n) Reinstatement of agreement.

(1) A consumer who fails to make a timely payment may reinstate a rent-to-own agreement without losing any rights or options that exist under the

agreement by paying all past-due charges, the reasonable costs of pickup, redelivery, and any refurbishing, and any applicable late fee:

(A) within five business days of the renewal date of the agreement if the consumer pays monthly; or

(B) within three business days of the renewal date of the agreement if the consumer pays more frequently than monthly.

(2) If a consumer promptly returns or voluntarily surrenders merchandise upon a merchant's request, the consumer may reinstate a rent-to-own agreement during a period of not less than 180 days after the date the merchant retakes possession of the merchandise.

(3) In the case of a rent-to-own agreement that is reinstated pursuant to this subsection, the merchant is not required to provide the consumer with the identical item of merchandise and may provide the consumer with a replacement item of equal quality and comparable design.

(o) Reasonable charges and fees; late fees.

(1) A charge or fee assessed under a rent-to-own agreement shall be reasonably related to the actual cost to the merchant of the service or hardship for which it is charged.

(2) A merchant may assess only one late fee for each payment regardless of how long the payment remains due.

(p) Prohibition on rent-to-own businesses and licensed lenders. A person engaged in the business of selling merchandise under a rent-to-own agreement subject to this section shall not engage in any conduct or business at the same physical location that would require a license under 8 V.S.A. chapter 73 (licensed lenders).

(q) Enforcement; remedies; damages. A person who violates this section commits an unfair and deceptive act in commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

* * * Financial Literacy * * *

Sec. 2. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) Many Vermonters are not learning the basics of personal finance in school or in life and their lack of knowledge and skill can have severe and negative consequences to themselves and Vermont's economy. Financial

illiteracy affects everyone—men and women, young and old, and crosses all racial and socio-economic boundaries.

(2) Financial literacy is an essential 21st century life skill that young people need to succeed, yet recent studies and surveys show that our youth have not mastered these topics. For example, a 2013 report by Vermont Works for Women indicated that young women believe that a lack of personal finance training was a major deficiency in their education. Without improved financial literacy, the next generation of Vermont leaders, job creators, entrepreneurs, and taxpayers will lack skills they need to survive and to thrive in this increasingly complex financial world.

(3) The following are some facts about the lack of financial literacy in Vermont's k–12 schools:

(A) Vermont received a “D” grade in a national report card on State efforts to improve financial literacy in high schools, but more than one-half of the states received a grade of A, B, or C;

(B) in an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) international financial literacy test of 15-year-olds, the United States ranked 9th out of 13 countries participating in the exam—statistically tied with the Russian Federation and behind China, Estonia, Czech Republic, Poland, and Latvia;

(C) only 10 percent of high schools in Vermont (7 out of 65) have a financial literacy graduation requirement;

(D) a 2011 survey shows that as many as 30 percent of Vermont high schools may not even offer a personal finance elective course for their students to take; and

(E) the same survey indicates that Vermont high school administrators estimate that more than two-thirds of the students graduate without achieving competence in financial literacy topics.

(4) Most students are not financially literate when they enter college and we know that many students leave college for “financial reasons.” Too few Vermont college students have received personal finance education in k–12 school or at home. In fact, a Schwab survey indicated that parents are nearly as uncomfortable talking to their children about money as they are discussing sex. Except in some targeted programs and occasional courses, most college students in Vermont are not offered much in the way of financial literacy education. Personal finance education often consists of brief mandatory entrance and exit counseling for students with federal loans, along with

reminders to Vermont students to repay their loans. Today's college graduates need to be financially sophisticated because they face greater challenges than previous generations experienced. As a result of the recent recession, many are worse off than their parents were at the same age, with more debt and stagnant or lower incomes. They have higher unemployment rates than older citizens, more live at home with their parents, while fewer own a home, have children or are married. A lack of financial skills is clearly a factor in the failure of many in this generation to launch, and is having a substantial impact on our overall economy.

(5) A more financially sophisticated collegiate student body can be expected to yield a corresponding increase in retention and persistence rates, fewer student loans, and lower student loan default rates and greater alumni giving.

(6) Several studies show that financially sophisticated college students have better outcomes. For example, three University of Arizona longitudinal studies that followed students through college and into the workforce clearly demonstrated that achieving financial self-sufficiency, a key developmental challenge of young adulthood, appears to be driven by financial behaviors practiced during emerging adulthood. The study indicated that college students who exhibited responsible early financial practices experienced smoother transitions to adulthood than students who had poor behaviors. The studies also found that those students who were most successful with this transition to adulthood had more financial education through personal finance or economics classes.

(7) Some troubling facts about college students lack of financial literacy include:

(A) 63 percent of Vermont four-year college students that graduated in 2012 had student loan debt that averaged \$28,299.00;

(B) nationally, nearly 11 percent of all student loan borrowers were delinquent in their payments by more than 90 days as of June 2014; and

(C) only 27 percent of parents in Vermont have set aside funds for their child's college education.

(8) Many of Vermont's adults struggle financially. The recent recession demonstrated that our citizens have trouble making complex financial decisions that are critical to their well-being. Nearly one-half of Vermont adults have subprime credit ratings, and thus pay more interest on auto and home loans and credit card debt; nearly two-thirds have not planned for

retirement; and less than one-half of Vermont adults participate in an employment-based retirement plan.

(9) Personal economic stress results in lost productivity, increased absenteeism, employee turnover, and increased medical, legal, and insurance costs. Employers in Vermont and our overall economy will benefit from a decrease in personal economic stress that can result from more adult financial education.

(10) Some troubling facts about Vermont adults' lack of financial literacy:

(A) in a 2014 survey, 41 percent of U.S. adults gave themselves a grade of C, D, or F on their personal finance knowledge;

(B) nationally, 34 percent of adults indicated that they have no retirement savings;

(C) as of the third quarter of 2014, among those Vermonters owing money in revolving debt, including credit cards, private label cards, and lines of credit, the average balance was \$9,822.00 per borrower;

(D) 62 percent of Vermont adults do not have a rainy-day fund, a liquid emergency fund that would cover three months of life's necessities;

(E) nearly 20 percent of adult Vermonters are unbanked or underbanked; and

(F) 22 percent of Vermont adults used one or more nonbank borrowing methods in the past five years, including an auto title loan, payday loan, advance on tax refund, pawn shop, and rent-to-own.

(11) Vermonters need the skills and tools to take control of their financial lives. Studies have shown that financial literacy is linked to positive outcomes like wealth accumulation, stock market participation, retirement planning, and avoidance of high cost alternative financial products.

(12) When they graduate, Vermont high school students should, at a minimum, understand how credit works, how to budget, and how to save and invest. College graduates should understand those concepts in addition to the connection between income and careers, and how student loans work. Vermont adults need to understand the critical importance of rainy-day and retirement funds, and the amounts they will need in those funds.

(13) All Vermonters should have access to content and training that will help them increase their personal finance knowledge. Vermont students and adults need a clear path to building their personal finance knowledge and

skills. Vermont needs to increase its focus on helping Vermonters become wiser consumers, savers, and investors. Financial literacy education is a helping hand that gives individuals knowledge and skills that can lift them out of a financial problem, or prevent difficulties from occurring.

(14) A more financially sophisticated and capable citizenry will help improve Vermont's economy and overall prosperity.

(15) In 2014, a Vermont Financial Literacy Task Force convened by the Center for Financial Literacy at Champlain College, recommended as one of its 13 action items that a Vermont Financial Literacy Commission be created to help improve the financial literacy and capability of all Vermonters.

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. chapter 151 is added to read:

CHAPTER 151. VERMONT FINANCIAL LITERACY COMMISSION

§ 6001. DEFINITIONS

In this chapter:

(1) "Financial capability" means:

(A) financial literacy and access to appropriate financial products; and

(B)(i) the ability to act, including knowledge, skills, confidence, and motivation; and

(ii) the opportunity to act, through access to beneficial financial products and institutions.

(2) "Financial literacy" means the ability to use knowledge and skills to manage financial resources effectively for a lifetime of financial well-being.

§ 6002. VERMONT FINANCIAL LITERACY COMMISSION

(a) There is created a Vermont Financial Literacy Commission to measurably improve the financial literacy and financial capability of Vermont's citizens.

(b) The Commission shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Vermont State Treasurer or designee;

(2) the Secretary of Education or designee;

(3) one representative of the Executive Branch, appointed by the Governor, who is an employee of an agency or department that conducts financial literacy education outreach efforts in Vermont, including the

Department of Children and Families, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Financial Regulation, Department of Labor, Department of Libraries, or the Commission on Women, but not including the Agency of Education;

(4) a member of the Vermont House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House and a member of the Vermont Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(5) a k–12 public school financial literacy educator appointed by the Vermont-NEA;

(6) one representative of k–12 public school administration, currently serving as a school board member, superintendent, or principal, appointed by the Governor based on nominees submitted by the Vermont School Board Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and the Vermont Principals Association;

(7) three representatives focused on collegiate financial literacy issues:

(A) the President of the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation or designee;

(B) one representative appointed by the Governor from either Vermont State Colleges or the University of Vermont; and

(C) one representative appointed by the Governor from an independent college in Vermont;

(8) two representatives from nonprofit entities engaged in providing financial literacy education to Vermont adults appointed by the Governor, one of which entities shall be a nonprofit that provides financial literacy and related services to persons with low income;

(9) one representative from Vermont’s banking industry appointed by the Vermont Bankers Association, and one representative from Vermont’s credit union industry appointed by the Association of Vermont Credit Unions; and

(10) one member of the public, appointed by the Governor.

(c) The Treasurer or designee and another member of the Commission, appointed by the Governor, who is not an employee of the State of Vermont, shall serve as co-chairs of the Commission.

(d)(1) Each member shall serve for a three-year term, provided that the Treasurer shall have the authority to designate whether an initial term for each

appointee shall be for a one, two, or three-year initial term in order to ensure that no more than one-third of the terms expire in any given year.

(2) A vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority as provided in subsection (a) of this section for the remainder of the term.

(e) The Commission may request from any branch, division, department, board, commission, or other agency of the State or any entity that receives State funds, such information as will enable the Commission to perform its duties as required in this chapter.

§ 6003. POWERS AND DUTIES

The Vermont Financial Literacy Commission established by section 6002 of this title shall have the following powers and duties necessary and appropriate to achieve the purposes of this chapter:

(1) collaborate with relevant State agencies and departments, private enterprise, and nonprofit organizations;

(2) incentivize Vermont's k-16 educational system, businesses, community organizations, and governmental agencies to implement financial literacy and capability programs;

(3) advise the administration, governmental agencies and departments, and the General Assembly on the current status of our citizens' financial literacy and capability;

(4) create and maintain a current inventory of all financial literacy and capability initiatives available in the State, and in particular identify trusted options that will benefit our citizens;

(5) identify ways to equip Vermonters with the training, information, skills, and tools they need to make sound financial decisions throughout their lives and ways to help individuals with low income get access to needed financial products and services;

(6) identify ways to help Vermonters with low income save and build assets;

(7) identify ways to help increase the percentage of Vermont employees saving for retirement;

(8) recommend actions that can be taken by the public and private sector to achieve the goal of increasing the financial literacy and capability of all Vermonters;

(9) promote and raise the awareness in our State about the importance of financial literacy and capability;

(10) identify key indicators to be tracked regarding financial literacy and capability in Vermont;

(11) analyze data to monitor the progress in achieving an increase in the financial literacy and capability of Vermont's citizens;

(12) pursue and accept funding for, and direct the administration of, the Financial Literacy Commission Fund created in section 6004 of this title;

(13) consider and implement research and policy initiatives that provide effective and meaningful results; and

(14) issue a report during the first month of each legislative biennium on the Commission's progress and recommendations for increasing the financial literacy and capability of Vermont's citizens, including an accounting of receipts, disbursements, and earnings of the Financial Literacy Commission Fund, and whether the Commission should be retired or reconfigured, to:

(A) the Governor;

(B) the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on Education, on Government Operations, and on Human Services; and

(C) the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Education, on Government Operations, and on Health and Welfare.

§ 6004. FINANCIAL LITERACY COMMISSION FUND

(a) There is created within the Office of the State Treasurer the Financial Literacy Commission Fund, a special fund created pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 that shall be administered by the Treasurer under the direction of the Financial Literacy Commission.

(b) The Fund shall consist of sums appropriated to the Fund and monies from any source accepted for the benefit of the Fund and interest earned from the investment of Fund balances. Any interest earned and any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward in the Fund and shall not revert to the General Fund.

(c) The purpose of the Fund shall be to enable the Commission to pursue and accept funding from diverse sources outside of State government in the form of gifts, grants, federal funding, or from any other sources public or

private, consistent with this chapter, in order to support financial literacy projects.

(d) The Treasurer, under the supervision of the Commission, shall have the authority:

(1) to expend monies from the Fund for financial literacy projects in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 462; and

(2) to invest monies in the Fund in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 434.

* * * Fees for Automatic Dialing Service * * *

Sec. 4. 9 V.S.A. § 2466b is added to read:

§ 2466b. DISCLOSURE OF FEE FOR AUTOMATIC DIALING

SERVICE

(a) In this section:

(1) “Automatic dialing service” means a service of a home or business security, monitoring, alarm, or similar system, by which the system automatically initiates a call or connection to an emergency service provider, either directly or through a third person, upon the occurrence of an action specified within the system to initiate a call or connection.

(2) “Emergency functions” include services provided by the department of public safety, firefighting services, police services, sheriff’s department services, medical and health services, rescue, engineering, emergency warning services, communications, evacuation of persons, emergency welfare services, protection of critical infrastructure, emergency transportation, temporary restoration of public utility services, other functions related to civilian protection and all other activities necessary or incidental to the preparation for and carrying out of these functions.

(3) “Emergency service provider” means a person that performs emergency functions.

(b) Before executing a contract for the sale or lease of a security, monitoring, alarm, or similar system that includes an automatic dialing service, the seller or lessor of the system shall disclose in writing:

(1) any fee or charge the seller or lessor charges to the buyer or lessee for the service; and

(2) that the buyer or lessor may be subject to additional fees or charges imposed by another person for use of the service.

(c) A person who fails to provide the disclosure required by subsection (b) of this section commits an unfair and deceptive act in commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

* * * Consumer Litigation Funding * * *

Sec. 5. 8 V.S.A. § 2246 is added to read:

§ 2246. CONSUMER LITIGATION FUNDING

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that the relatively new business of consumer litigation funding, as defined in subsection (b) of this section, raises concerns about whether and, if so, to what extent such transactions should be regulated by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation. Concerns include: finance charges and fees; terms and conditions of contracts; rescission rights; licensure or registration; disclosure requirements; enforcement and penalties; and any other standards and practices the Commissioner deems relevant.

(b) Definition. As used in this section, “consumer litigation funding” means a nonrecourse transaction in which a person provides personal expense funds to a consumer to cover personal expenses while the consumer is a party to a civil action or legal claim and, in return, the consumer assigns to such person a contingent right to receive an amount of the proceeds of a settlement or judgment obtained from the consumer’s action or claim. If no such proceeds are obtained, the consumer is not required to repay the person the funded amount, any fees or charges, or any other sums.

(c) Recommendation. On or before December 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Financial Regulation and the Attorney General shall submit a recommendation or draft legislation to the General Assembly reflecting an appropriate balance between:

(1) providing a consumer access to funds for personal expenses while the consumer is a party to a civil action or legal claim; and

(2) protecting the consumer from any predatory practices by a person who provides consumer litigation funding.

(d) Moratorium. A person shall not offer or enter into a consumer litigation funding contract on or after July 1, 2015 unless authorized to do so by further enactment of the General Assembly.

(e) Enforcement. A person who violates subsection (d) of this section shall be subject to the powers and penalties of the Commissioner of Financial

Regulation under sections 13 (subpoenas and examinations) and 2215 (licensed lender penalties) of this title.

* * * Internet Dating Services * * *

Sec. 6. 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 8 is added to read:

Subchapter 8. Internet Dating Services

§ 2482a. DEFINITIONS

In this chapter:

(1) "Account change" means a change to the password, e-mail address, age, identified gender, gender of members seeking to meet, primary photo unless it has previously been approved by the Internet dating service, or other conspicuous change to a member's account or profile with or on an Internet dating service.

(2) "Banned member" means the member whose account or profile is the subject of a fraud ban.

(3) "Fraud ban" means barring a member's account or profile from an Internet dating service because, in the judgment of the service, the member poses a significant risk of attempting to obtain money from other members through fraudulent means.

(4) "Internet dating service" means a person or entity that is in the business of providing dating services principally on or through the Internet.

(5) "Member" means a person who submits to an Internet dating service information required to access the service and who obtains access to the service.

(6) "Vermont member" means a member who provides a Vermont residential or billing address or zip code when registering with the Internet dating service.

§ 2482b. REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNET DATING SERVICES

(a) An Internet dating service shall disclose to all of its Vermont members known to have previously received and responded to an on-site message from a banned member:

(1) the user name, identification number, or other profile identifier of the banned member;

(2) the fact that the banned member was banned because in the judgment of the Internet dating service the banned member may have been

using a false identity or may pose a significant risk of attempting to obtain money from other members through fraudulent means;

(3) that a member should never send money or personal financial information to another member; and

(4) a hyperlink to online information that clearly and conspicuously addresses the subject of how to avoid being defrauded by another member of an Internet dating service.

(b) The notification required by subsection (a) of this section shall be:

(1) clear and conspicuous;

(2) by e-mail, text message, or other appropriate means of communication; and

(3) sent within 24 hours after the fraud ban, or at a later time if the service has determined based on an analysis of effective messaging that a different time is more effective, but in no event later than three days after the fraud ban.

(c) An Internet dating service shall disclose in an e-mail, text message, or other appropriate means of communication, in a clear and conspicuous manner, within 24 hours after discovery of any account change to a Vermont member's account or profile:

(1) the fact that information on the member's account or personal profile has been changed;

(2) a brief description of the change; and

(3) if applicable, how the member may obtain further information on the change.

§ 2482c. IMMUNITY

(a) An Internet dating service shall not be liable to any person, other than the State of Vermont, or any agency, department, or subdivision of the State, for disclosing to any member that it has banned a member, the user name or identifying information of the banned member, or the reasons for the Internet dating service's decision to ban such member.

(b) An Internet dating service shall not be liable to any person, other than the State of Vermont, or any agency, department, or subdivision of the State, for the decisions regarding whether to ban a member, or how or when to notify a member pursuant to section 2482b of this title.

(c) This subchapter does not diminish or adversely affect the protections for Internet dating services that are afforded in 47 U.S.C. § 230 (Federal Communications Decency Act).

§ 2482d. VIOLATIONS

(a) A person who violates this subchapter commits an unfair and deceptive act in trade and commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

(b) The Attorney General has the same authority to make rules, conduct civil investigations, and enter into assurances of discontinuance as is provided under subchapter 1 of this chapter.

* * * Discount Membership Programs * * *

Sec. 7. 9 V.S.A. § 2470hh is amended to read:

§ 2470hh. VIOLATIONS

(a) ~~A violation of this subchapter is deemed to be a violation of section 2453 of this title~~ A person who violates this subchapter commits an unfair and deceptive act in trade and commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

(b) The Attorney General has the same authority to make rules, conduct civil investigations, enter into assurances of discontinuance, and bring civil actions as is provided under subchapter 1 of this chapter.

(c) It is an unfair and deceptive act and practice in commerce for any person to provide substantial assistance to the seller of a discount membership program that has engaged or is engaging in an unfair or deceptive act or practice in commerce, when the person or the person's authorized agent:

(1) receives notice from a regulatory, law enforcement, or similar governmental authority that the seller of the discount membership program is in violation of this subchapter;

(2) knows from information received or in its possession that the seller of the discount membership program is in violation of this subchapter; or

(3) consciously avoids knowing that the seller of the discount membership program is in violation of this subchapter.

(d) Subject to section 2452 of this title, a person who provides only incidental assistance, which does not further the sale of a discount membership program, to the seller of the program, or who does not receive a benefit from providing assistance to the seller of a discount membership, shall not be liable under this section unless the person receives notice, knows, or consciously avoids knowing, pursuant to subdivision (c)(1), (2), or (3) of this section, that a discount membership program is in violation of this chapter.

* * * Security Breach Notice Act * * *

Sec. 8. 9 V.S.A. § 2435(b)(6) is amended to read:

(6) ~~For purposes of this subsection, notice to consumers may be provided~~ A data collector may provide notice of a security breach to a consumer by one or more of the following methods:

(A) Direct notice ~~to consumers~~, which may be by one of the following methods:

(i) ~~Written~~ written notice mailed to the consumer's residence;

(ii) ~~Electronic~~ electronic notice, for those consumers for whom the data collector has a valid e-mail address if:

(I) ~~the data collector does not have contact information set forth in subdivisions (i) and (iii) of this subdivision (6)(A)~~, the data collector's primary method of communication with the consumer is by electronic means, the electronic notice does not request or contain a hypertext link to a request that the consumer provide personal information, and the electronic notice conspicuously warns consumers not to provide personal information in response to electronic communications regarding security breaches; or

(II) the notice ~~provided~~ is consistent with the provisions regarding electronic records and signatures for notices ~~as set forth~~ in 15 U.S.C. § 7001; or

(iii) ~~Telephonic~~ telephonic notice, provided that telephonic contact is made directly with each affected consumer; and ~~the telephonic contact is not~~ through a prerecorded message.

(B)(i) Substitute notice, if:

(I) the data collector demonstrates that the cost of providing written or telephonic notice, ~~pursuant to subdivision (A)(i) or (iii) of this subdivision (6)~~, to affected consumers would exceed \$5,000.00; ~~or that~~

(II) the ~~affected~~ class of affected consumers to be provided written or telephonic notice, ~~pursuant to subdivision (A)(i) or (iii) of this subdivision (6)~~, exceeds 5,000; ~~or~~

(III) the data collector does not have sufficient contact information.

(ii) ~~Substitute notice shall consist of all of the following~~ A data collector shall provide substitute notice by:

(i)(I) ~~conspicuous~~ conspicuously posting of the notice on the data collector's website ~~page~~ if the data collector maintains one; and

~~(ii)~~(II) ~~notification to~~ notifying major statewide and regional media.

* * * Limitation of Liability for Advertisers * * *

Sec. 9. 9 V.S.A. § 2452 is amended to read:

§ 2452. LIMITATION

(a) Nothing in this chapter shall apply to the owner or publisher of a newspaper, magazine, publication, or printed matter, or to a provider of an interactive computer service, wherein an advertisement or offer to sell appears, or to the owner or operator of a radio or television station which disseminates an advertisement or offer to sell, when the owner, publisher ~~or~~ operator, or provider has no knowledge of the fraudulent intent, design, or purpose of the advertiser or ~~operator~~ offeror, and is not responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of the advertisement or offer to sell.

(b) In this section, “interactive computer service” has the same meaning as in 47 U.S.C. § 230(f)(2).

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Secs. 2–5, and 7–9 shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

(b) Sec. 1 shall take effect on September 1, 2015.

(c) In Sec. 6:

(1) 9 V.S.A. §§ 2482a, 2482c, and 2482d shall take effect on passage.

(2) 9 V.S.A. § 2482b shall take effect on January 1, 2016.

Rep. Lanpher of Vergennes, for the committee on Appropriations, reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment as follows:

First: In Sec. 3, in 9 V.S.A. § 6002(b), by striking out subdivision (4) in its entirety (legislative members of Vermont Financial Literacy Commission)

Second: In Sec. 3, in 9 V.S.A. § 6002(b), in subdivision (5), by striking out the word “public” and by striking out the words “appointed by the Vermont NEA”

Third: In Sec. 3, in 9 V.S.A. § 6002(b), in subdivision (6), by striking out the word “public”

Fourth: In Sec. 3, in 9 V.S.A. § 6002(b), by striking out subdivision (7) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (7) to read:

(7) one representative focused on collegiate financial literacy issues;

and by renumbering the subdivisions in subsection (b) to be numerically correct

Fifth: In Sec. 3, in 9 V.S.A. § 6002(d), by adding a subdivision (3) to read:

(3) A member of the Commission who is not an employee of the State of Vermont and who is not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for his or her attendance at a meeting of the Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

Sixth: In Sec. 3, in 9 V.S.A. § 6003(14), by striking out “retired or”

Seventh: By adding a Sec. 3A to read:

Sec. 3A. REPEAL

9 V.S.A. chapter 151 (Vermont Financial Literacy Commission) shall be repealed on July 1, 2018.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to consumer protection laws”

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time. **Rep. Lanpher of Vergennes** asked that the report of the committee on Appropriations be divided and that Secs. 1,5,6, and 7 be taken first and that Secs. 2, 3, and 4 be taken Second. Thereupon the first instance of amendment (Secs. 1, 5, 6 and 7) was agreed to. Thereupon, Rep. Lanpher of Vergennes asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw the second instance of amendment (Secs. 2, 3, and 4).

Pending the question, Shall the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, as amended, be adopted? **Rep. Marcotte of Coventry** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, as amended, be adopted? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 131. Nays, 13.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais	Botzow of Pownal	Chesnut-Tangerman of
Bancroft of Westford	Branagan of Georgia	Middletown Springs
Bartholomew of Hartland	Briglin of Thetford	Christie of Hartford
Baser of Bristol	Browning of Arlington	Clarkson of Woodstock
Batchelor of Derby	Burke of Brattleboro	Cole of Burlington
Berry of Manchester	Canfield of Fair Haven	Condon of Colchester
Beyor of Highgate	Carr of Brandon	Connor of Fairfield
Bissonnette of Winooski		Conquest of Newbury

Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford	Keenan of St. Albans City	Potter of Clarendon
Corcoran of Bennington	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Pugh of South Burlington
Cupoli of Rutland City	Klein of East Montpelier	Purvis of Colchester
Dakin of Colchester	Komline of Dorset	Rachelson of Burlington
Dame of Essex	Krebs of South Hero	Ram of Burlington
Deen of Westminster	Krowinski of Burlington	Russell of Rutland City
Devereux of Mount Holly	Lalonde of South Burlington	Ryerson of Randolph
Donahue of Northfield	Lanpher of Vergennes	Savage of Swanton
Donovan of Burlington	Lawrence of Lyndon	Scheuermann of Stowe
Eastman of Orwell	Lefebvre of Newark	Sharpe of Bristol
Ellis of Waterbury	Lenes of Shelburne	Shaw of Pittsford
Emmons of Springfield	Lewis of Berlin	Shaw of Derby
Evans of Essex	Lippert of Hinesburg	Sheldon of Middlebury
Fagan of Rutland City	Long of Newfane	Sibilia of Dover
Feltus of Lyndon	Lucke of Hartford	Smith of New Haven
Fields of Bennington	Macaig of Williston	Stevens of Waterbury
Forguites of Springfield	Manwaring of Wilmington	Stuart of Brattleboro
Frank of Underhill	Marcotte of Coventry	Sullivan of Burlington
French of Randolph	Martin of Wolcott	Sweaney of Windsor
Gage of Rutland City	Masland of Thetford	Terenzini of Rutland Town
Gamache of Swanton	McCormack of Burlington	Till of Jericho
Gonzalez of Winooski	McCullough of Williston	Toleno of Brattleboro
Grad of Moretown	McFaun of Barre Town	Toll of Danville
Graham of Williamstown	Miller of Shaftsbury	Townsend of South Burlington
Greshin of Warren	Morris of Bennington	Trieber of Rockingham
Haas of Rochester	Morrissey of Bennington	Troiano of Stannard
Head of South Burlington	Mrowicki of Putney	Turner of Milton
Hebert of Vernon	Myers of Essex	Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh
Helm of Fair Haven	Nuovo of Middlebury	Viens of Newport City
Higley of Lowell	O'Brien of Richmond	Walz of Barre City
Hooper of Montpelier	Olsen of Londonderry	Webb of Shelburne
Huntley of Cavendish	O'Sullivan of Burlington	Woodward of Johnson
Jerman of Essex	Partridge of Windham	Wright of Burlington
Jewett of Ripton	Patt of Worcester	Yantachka of Charlotte
Johnson of South Hero	Pearce of Richford	Young of Glover
Juskiewicz of Cambridge	Pearson of Burlington	Zagar of Barnard
	Poirier of Barre City	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Beck of St. Johnsbury	Hubert of Milton	Quimby of Concord
Brennan of Colchester	LaClair of Barre Town	Strong of Albany
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Martel of Waterford	Tate of Mendon
Fiske of Enosburgh	Murphy of Fairfax	Willhoit of St. Johnsbury *
	Parent of St. Albans City	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Burditt of West Rutland	Dakin of Chester	McCoy of Poultney
Buxton of Tunbridge	Davis of Washington	

Rep. Willhoit of St. Johnsbury explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I voted no because capping the price a business can charge to twice what the business paid for an item sets a bad precedent for our rural Vermont businesses trying to compete.”

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered.

Favorable Report; Third Reading Ordered

S. 41

Rep. Condon of Colchester, for the committee on Ways & Means, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to developing a strategy for evaluating the effectiveness of individual tax expenditures

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence. The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time and third reading ordered.

Report of Committee of Conference Adopted

S. 115

The Speaker placed before the House the following Committee of Conference report:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to expungement of convictions based on conduct that is no longer criminal

Respectfully reported that it has met and considered the same and recommended that the bill be amended as follows:

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 7601 is amended to read:

§ 7601. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(3) “Predicate offense” means a criminal offense that can be used to enhance a sentence levied for a later conviction, and includes operating a vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or other substance in violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201, domestic assault in violation of section 1042 of this title, and stalking in violation of section 1062 of this title. “Predicate offense” shall not include misdemeanor possession of marijuana or a disorderly conduct offense under section 1026 of this title.

(4) “Qualifying crime” means:

(A) a misdemeanor offense which is not a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title, an offense involving sexual exploitation of children in violation of chapter 64 of this title, an offense involving violation of a protection order in violation of section 1030 of this title, a prohibited act as defined in section 2632 of this title, or a predicate offense;

(B) a violation of subsection 3701(a) of this title related to criminal mischief; ~~or~~

(C) a violation of section 2501 of this title related to grand larceny; or

(D) a violation of section 1201 of this title related to burglary, excluding any burglary into an occupied dwelling, as defined in subdivision 1201(b)(2) of this title.

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 7602 is amended to read:

§ 7602. EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF RECORD,
POSTCONVICTION; PROCEDURE

(a)(1) A person ~~who was convicted of a qualifying crime or qualifying crimes arising out of the same incident or occurrence~~ may file a petition with the Court requesting expungement or sealing of the criminal history record related to the conviction. ~~The State’s Attorney or Attorney General shall be the respondent in the matter. if:~~

(A) the person was convicted of a qualifying crime or qualifying crimes arising out of the same incident or occurrence; or

(B) the person was convicted of an offense for which the underlying conduct is no longer prohibited by law or designated as a criminal offense.

(2) The State’s Attorney or Attorney General shall be the respondent in the matter.

(3) The Court shall grant the petition without hearing if the petitioner and the respondent stipulate to the granting of the petition. The respondent

shall file the stipulation with the Court, and the Court shall issue the petitioner a certificate and provide notice of the order in accordance with this section.

* * *

(d) The Court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be expunged in accordance with section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:

(1) The petitioner committed the qualifying crime or crimes prior to reaching 25 years of age.

(2) At least five years have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed the terms and conditions of the sentence for the conviction, or if the person has successfully completed the terms and conditions of an indeterminate term of probation that commenced at least five years previously.

(3) The person has not been convicted of a crime arising out of a new incident or occurrence since the person was convicted of the qualifying crime.

(4) The person successfully completed a term of regular employment or public service, independent of any service ordered as a part of the petitioner's sentence for the conviction, and as approved by the Community Justice Network of Vermont, which may include:

(A) community service hours completed without compensation, reparation of harm to the victim, or education regarding ways not to reoffend, or a combination of the three;

(B) at least one year of service in the U.S. Armed Forces, followed by an honorable discharge or continued service in good standing;

(C) at least one year of service in AmeriCorps or another local, state, national, or international service program, followed by successful completion of the program or continued service in good standing; or

(D) at least one year of regular employment.

(5) Any restitution ordered by the Court for any crime of which the person has been convicted has been paid in full.

(6) The Court finds that expungement of the criminal history record serves the interest of justice.

(e) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section, the Court shall grant the petition and order that the criminal history record be

expunged in accordance with section 7606 of this title if the following conditions are met:

(1) At least one year has elapsed since the completion of any sentence or supervision for the offense, whichever is later.

(2) Any restitution ordered by the Court has been paid in full.

(3) The Court finds that expungement of the criminal history record serves the interest of justice.

(f) For petitions filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section for a conviction for possession of a regulated drug under 18 V.S.A. chapter 84, subchapter 1 in an amount that is no longer prohibited by law or for which criminal sanctions have been removed:

(1) The petitioner shall bear the burden of establishing that his or her conviction was based on possessing an amount of regulated drug that is no longer prohibited by law or for which criminal sanctions have been removed.

(2) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the amount of the regulated drug specified in the affidavit of probable cause associated with the petitioner's conviction was the amount possessed by the petitioner.

(g) Prior to granting an expungement or sealing under this section for petitions filed pursuant to subdivision 7601(4)(D) of this title, the Court shall make a finding that the conduct underlying the conviction under section 1201 of this title did not constitute a burglary into an occupied dwelling, as defined in subdivision 1201(b)(2) of this title. The petitioner shall bear the burden of establishing this fact.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Which was considered and adopted on the part of the House.

Adjournment

At two o'clock and thirty eight minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.