

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill No.
3 74 entitled “An act relating to safety protocols for social and mental health
4 workers” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. chapter 82 is added to read:

8 CHAPTER 82. SAFETY PROVISIONS FOR WORKERS

9 § 8201. SAFETY POLICIES FOR SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

10 WORKERS

11 (a) The Agency of Human Services shall ensure that its contracts with
12 programs that providing provide direct services to clients and that are
13 administered, licensed, or designated, or certified by a department of the
14 Agency, as well as the Agency and each department of the Agency, have a
15 workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy that meets or exceeds
16 the requirements of this chapter in place for the benefit of employees working
17 directly with clients. This section shall not apply to hospitals licensed pursuant
18 to 18 V.S.A. chapter 43.

19 (b) A workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy shall
20 minimally include the following:

1 (1) the establishment of a system for centrally recording all incidents of
2 workplace violence or viable or credible threats of workplace violence against
3 employees providing direct services to clients;

4 (2) preparation of a written violence prevention and crisis response
5 policy with input from employees working directly with clients that includes
6 measures the program intends to take to respond to an incident of workplace
7 violence or viable or credible threat of workplace violence against employees
8 providing direct services to clients;

9 (3) implementation of a training program to educate employees
10 providing direct services to clients about workplace violence and ways to
11 reduce the risks; and

12 (4) the development and maintenance of a violence prevention and
13 response committee that includes employees working directly with clients to
14 monitor ongoing compliance with the violence prevention and crisis response
15 policy and to assist employees providing direct services to clients.

16 (c) A program's workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy
17 shall be evaluated annually and updated as necessary by the violence and
18 prevention response committee and provided to employees who work directly
19 with clients.

1 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 7114 is added to read:

2 § 7114. SAFETY POLICIES FOR SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

3 WORKERS

4 Programs providing direct services to clients that are administered licensed,
5 or designated, or certified by a department of the Agency of Human Services,
6 as well as the Agency and each department of the Agency, shall establish a
7 workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy for the benefit of
8 employees working directly with clients pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 8201.

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016 January 1, 2017.

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19 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE