

Summary of Changes to H.562 (OPR Bill)

The Senate made several changes to H.562 that your Committee on Government Operations supports. To summarize, the Senate's proposal of amendment:

- As you may recall, the bill amends Chapter 57 of Title 26 to allow OPR to review professions within its jurisdiction and report back to the Legislature on the continuing need for, and the extent to which, we regulate professions at OPR. It also requires OPR to review a profession within or outside its jurisdiction, whenever the House or Senate Committee on Government Operations so requests. The Senate amended the bill to remove the professional regulatory programs at the Agency of Education from the review.
- For a report reviewing any profession outside of OPR, the Senate further added a requirement that OPR file its regulatory review report not only with the Government Operations Committees, but also with the legislative committees of jurisdiction for the underlying profession, and any applicable regulatory entities. In addition, if the report involves a profession outside OPR's jurisdiction, the bill now requires that the report be filed in conjunction with the agency with jurisdiction over the licensing of the relevant profession. Further, if a subject agency disagrees on any aspect of the report, the bill now requires that the report incorporate the dissenting agency's responses so that all points of view are known to the Legislature.
- The Senate also amended the bill to require operational data from seven (7) state agencies which collectively regulate 38 professions outside of OPR. Each agency is asked to provide simple and readily accessible data on 19 topics relevant to licensing administration. The purpose of this report and amendment is that the State of Vermont could benefit from an evaluation of all its licensing programs for professions, trades, and occupations to determine if there are efficiencies to be gained through consolidation, standardization, and sharing of best practices. By studying what has worked best across all the professions the State regulates, we can identify means to protect the public while reducing regulatory burdens. Similar to the Senate amendment removing the Agency of Education from the

regulatory review by OPR, the Senate amendment removes the professional regulatory programs at the Agency of Education from this operational report as well.

Your Committee on Government Operations discussed these changes with the Director of OPR and the Committee voted to support the bill as amended on a vote of _____. We ask for your support.