

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 provide direct services to clients and that are administered or
13 designated by a department of the Agency, as well as the Agency and each
14 department of the Agency, have a workplace violence prevention and crisis
15 response policy that meets or exceeds the requirements of this chapter in place
16 for the benefit of employees working directly with clients.

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

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

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

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

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

13 (c) A workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy shall be
14 evaluated annually and updated as necessary by the violence and prevention
15 response committee and provided to employees who work directly with clients.

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

17 § 7114. SAFETY POLICIES FOR SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

18 WORKERS

19 Programs providing direct services to clients that are administered or
20 designated by a department of the Agency of Human Services, as well as the
21 Agency and each department of the Agency, shall establish a workplace

1 violence prevention and crisis response policy for the benefit of employees
2 working directly with clients pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 8201.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

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7 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE