

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
3 Bill No. 434 entitled “An act relating to law enforcement and fire service
4 training safety” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 * * * Training Safety Subcommittee * * *

9 Sec. 1. 29 V.S.A. § 842 is added to read:

10 § 842. TRAINING SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE; RECOMMENDATIONS;

11 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

12 (a) Subcommittee creation. There is created as a subcommittee of the
13 Training Center Governance Committee the Training Safety Subcommittee to
14 make recommendations regarding training safety at the Robert H. Wood, Jr.
15 Criminal Justice and Fire Service Training Center of Vermont (Training
16 Center).

17 (b) Subcommittee membership. The Subcommittee shall be composed of
18 seven members.

19 (1) Four of these members shall be members of the Training Center
20 Governance Committee, appointed by the Committee as follows:

21 (A) two shall represent the Vermont Police Academy; and

1 (B) two shall represent the Vermont Fire Academy.

2 (2) The remaining three members shall be as follows:

3 (A) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

4 (B) the Risk Management Manager of the Office of Risk

5 Management within the Agency of Administration; and

6 (C) one employee of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns who

7 specializes in risk management, appointed by the Executive Director of the

8 League.

9 (c) Subcommittee recommendations. The Subcommittee shall annually:

10 (1) on or before February 1, review the safety records of the Training

11 Center; and

12 (2) on or before July 1, submit to the Training Center Governance

13 Committee its recommendations regarding how training safety at the Training

14 Center could be improved.

15 (d) Governance Committee review and report.

16 (1) The Training Center Governance Committee shall review and

17 consider the recommendations made by the Subcommittee under subsection (c)

18 of this section.

19 (2) Annually, on or before January 15, the Governance Committee shall

20 report to the General Assembly regarding:

1 (A) any training safety issues it has discovered at the Training Center
2 and any steps it has taken to remedy those issues; and

3 (B) whether the Governance Committee has instituted any of the
4 Subcommittee’s recommendations for training safety and if not, the reasons
5 therefor.

6 (3) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports)
7 shall not apply to the report required to be made under this subsection.

8 Sec. 2. INITIAL TRAINING SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AND
9 INITIAL TRAINING CENTER GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
10 REPORT

11 (a) The Chair of the Training Center Governance Committee shall call the
12 initial meeting of the Training Safety Subcommittee set forth in
13 29 V.S.A. § 842 in Sec. 1 of this act to be held on or before February 1, 2017.

14 (b) The Training Center Governance Committee shall make its initial report
15 to the General Assembly described in 29 V.S.A. § 842(d) in Sec. 1 of this act
16 on or before January 15, 2018.

1 Office of Risk Management should be given authority to institute safety
2 measures necessary to reduce the cost of providing workers' compensation
3 coverage to the State, including the following questions:

4 (1) what are the actions, if any, that the Agency of Administration, the
5 Office of State Employee Workers' Compensation and Injury Prevention, and
6 the Office of Risk Management have taken in response to the findings and
7 recommendations of the Vermont State Auditor's 2013 Report on the State's
8 Workers' Compensation Program, and have those actions resulted in any
9 improvements in the performance of the Office of Risk Management or
10 reductions in the annual cost of satisfying State employees' workers'
11 compensation claims;

12 (2) whether providing the Office of Risk Management with the authority
13 to require State agencies and departments to implement safety measures would
14 reduce the annual cost of satisfying State employees' workers' compensation
15 claims;

16 (3) whether providing the Office of Risk Management with the authority
17 to require State agencies and departments to implement safety measures would
18 reduce the frequency of work-related injuries among State employees;

19 (4) what are the likely costs and benefits to the State of contracting out
20 the workers' compensation adjustment and loss control functions of the Office
21 of Risk Management to a private entity, including any projected changes in the

1 annual cost of satisfying State employees' workers' compensation claims, any
2 projected changes in the amount of work-related injuries among State
3 employees, and the projected annual cost of a private entity carrying out the
4 workers' compensation adjustment and loss control functions of the Office of
5 Risk Management; and

6 (5) how would the quality of the service provided to the State by a
7 private entity carrying out the workers' compensation adjustment and loss
8 control functions of the Office of Risk Management compare to the current
9 level of service provided by the Office of Risk Management.

10 (d) Report. On or before December 31, 2016, the Committee shall submit a
11 written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic
12 Development and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on
13 Finance and on Government Operations with its findings, a recommendation as
14 to whether the workers' compensation adjustment and loss control functions of
15 the Office of Risk Management should be contracted out to a private entity,
16 and any recommendations for legislative, regulatory, or administrative action.

17 (e) Meetings.

18 (1) The Secretary of Administration shall call the first meeting of the
19 Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2016.

20 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
21 first meeting.

1 (3) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 1, 2017.

2 Sec. 4. OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT; PRIVATIZATION

3 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, until no sooner than
4 January 20, 2017, the Agency of Administration shall not enter into a
5 privatization contract, as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 341, for the workers’
6 compensation adjustment and loss control functions of the Agency’s Office of
7 Risk Management.

8 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.

10 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating
11 to establishing the Training Safety Subcommittee of the Training Center
12 Governance Committee and to a study of risk management”

13

14 (Committee vote: _____)

15

16

Senator _____

17

FOR THE COMMITTEE