

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 512
3 entitled “An act relating to adequate shelter of dogs and cats” respectfully
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate
5 propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: By adding a Sec. X. to read as follows:

7 Sec. X. 12 V.S.A. § 5784 is added to read:

8 § 5784. FORCIBLE ENTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLE TO REMOVE

9 UNATTENDED CHILD OR ANIMAL

10 A person who forcibly enters a motor vehicle for the purpose of removing a
11 child or animal from the motor vehicle shall not be subject to civil liability for
12 damages arising from the forcible entry if the person:

13 (1) determines the motor vehicle is locked or there is otherwise no
14 reasonable method for the child or animal to exit the vehicle;

15 (2) reasonably and in good faith believes that forcible entry into motor
16 vehicle is necessary because the child or animal is in imminent danger of harm;

17 (3) has contacted local law enforcement, fire department, or 911
18 operator prior to forcibly entering the vehicle;

19 (4) places a notice on the vehicle with the person’s contact information,
20 the reason the entry was made, the location of the child or animal, and that the
21 authorities have been notified;

- 1 (5) remains with the child or animal in a safe location reasonably close
- 2 to the motor vehicle until law enforcement, fire, or other emergency responder
- 3 arrives; and
- 4 (6) used no more force to enter the vehicle and remove the child or
- 5 animal than necessary under the circumstances.