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H.689

Introduced by Representatives Townsend of South Burlington and Yacovone
of Morristown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Domestic relations; abuse prevention

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allocate
funding for domestic violence accountability programs and create and fund the
position of Vermont Council on Domestic Violence Coordinator.

An act relating to funding domestic violence accountability programs and
the position of Vermont Council on Domestic Violence Coordinator

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 15 V.S.A. § 1172 is amended to read:

§ 1172. PURPOSE; POWERS; DUTIES

(a) The Council shall:

* * *

(5) establish and maintain standards for ~~intervention~~ domestic violence
accountability programs for perpetrators of domestic violence, and develop a
process for certifying that these programs are complying with the standards
developed by the Council;

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(c) Domestic violence accountability programs shall be funded by the State of Vermont.

Sec. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR VERMONT COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POSITION

One new permanent, exempt position of Vermont Council on Domestic Violence Coordinator is created within the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence.

Sec. 3. 15 V.S.A. § 1174 is added to read:

§ 1174. VERMONT COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATOR

(a) The Vermont Council on Domestic Violence Coordinator position shall be contracted through the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Coordinator's responsibilities shall include:

- (1) coordinating the Council's duties, committees, and membership;
- (2) overseeing recruitment, orientation, and retention of Council members in collaboration with the Governor's office, the Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court, and designated agencies;
- (3) reviewing certification of domestic violence accountability programs according to standards established by the Council and presenting recommendations for program certifications to the Council as needed;

1 (4) providing annual training and technical assistance to domestic
2 violence accountability programs; and

3 (5) reporting regularly to the Council and relevant committees on the
4 status of program certifications.

5 (b) The Coordinator position shall be funded by the State of Vermont.

6 Sec. 4. APPROPRIATIONS

7 The following amounts shall be appropriated to the Center for Crime Victim
8 Services from the General Fund in fiscal year 2019:

9 (1) \$91,000.00 for the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence
10 Coordinator.

11 (2) \$148,000.00 to support the Vermont domestic violence
12 accountability programs

13 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.