1	H.842
2	Introduced by Representatives Stuart of Brattleboro and Willhoit of
3	St. Johnsbury
4	Referred to Committee on
5	Date:
6	Subject: Human services; runaway children; parental notification
7	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require
8	designated shelters to contact the parent, guardian, or custodian of a runaway
9	child who arrives at a shelter, regardless of whether the child arrives on his or
10	her own accord or is otherwise delivered to the shelter.
11 12	An act relating to notifying parents, guardians, or custodians of the location of a runaway child
13	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
14	Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 5303 is amended to read:
15	§ 5303. PROCEDURE FOR RUNAWAY CHILDREN
16	(a) If an officer takes a child into custody pursuant to subdivision 5301(3)
17	of this title, the officer shall deliver the child to:
18	(1) the child's custodial parent, foster parent, guardian, custodian, or
19	noncustodial parent lawfully exercising parent-child contact; or

1	(2) a shelter designated by the Department pursuant to section 5304 of
2	this title as qualified to assist children who have run away, for the purpose of
3	reuniting them with their parents, guardian, or legal custodian.
4	(b) Upon delivery of a child to a child's arrival at a shelter, regardless of
5	whether the child is delivered to the shelter or arrives at the shelter on the
6	child's own initiative, the shelter program director or his or her designee shall
7	notify the child's parents, guardian, or custodian that the child has been taken
8	into custody and make reasonable efforts to mediate the differences between
9	the parties, unless the child indicates that he or she has been abused or harmed
10	by a parent, guardian, or custodian.
11	* * *
12	Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE
13	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.