House Calendar

Thursday, April 19, 2018
107th DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION
House Convenes at 1:00 P.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until April 19, 2018
Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 874 Inmate access to prescription drugs............................................. 1571

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

H. 926 Approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Colchester1572
S. 92 An act relating to interchangeable biological products....................... 1572
S. 173 An act relating to sealing criminal history records when there is no
carceration................................................................. 1572
S. 289 An act relating to protecting consumers and promoting an open Internet
in Vermont........................................................................ 1572

Favorable

H. 927 Approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Montpelier.1573
Rep. Lewis for Government Operations
Rep. Canfield for Ways and Means................................................. 1573

Action Postponed Until April 20, 2018

Called Up

S. 267 An act relating to timing of a decree nisi in a divorce proceeding.. 1574
Rep. LaLonde for Judiciary

NOTICE CALENDAR

Committee Bill for Second Reading

H. 928 Compensation for certain State employees (Pay Act)............... 1588
Favorable with Amendment

S. 70 An act relating to the nutritional requirements for children’s meals. 1589
Rep. Haas for Human Services

S. 85 An act relating to simplifying government for small businesses. 1590
Rep. Hill for Commerce and Economic Development

S. 280 An act relating to the Advisory Council for Strengthening Families. 1591
Rep. Noyes for Human Services

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 27 Eliminating the statute of limitations on prosecutions for sexual assault

Ordered to Lie

H. 167 Alternative approaches to addressing low-level illicit drug use. 1598

H. 219 The Vermont spaying and neutering program. 1598

Consent Calendar

H.C.R. 328 Congratulating the 2017 Rivendell Academy Raptors Division IV championship boys’ soccer team. 1599

H.C.R. 329 Commemorating the centennial of Newport City. 1599

H.C.R. 330 Congratulating the Our Community Cares Camp organization on entering its 10th year of operation. 1599

H.C.R. 331 Honoring Dawn Francis for her career achievements as a regional planner, municipal administrator, and public policy advocate. 1599

H.C.R. 332 Congratulating the 2018 BFA-St. Albans Comets Division I championship girls’ ice hockey team. 1599

H.C.R. 333 Honoring Karen Richard for her exemplary municipal public service career in the town of Colchester. 1599

H.C.R. 334 Congratulating the 2018 BFA-St. Albans Comets State championship girls’ snowboarding team. 1599

H.C.R. 335 Congratulating the Mount Anthony Union High School wrestling team on its 30th consecutive State championship. 1599

H.C.R. 336 Congratulating the 2018 Windsor High School Yellowjackets Division III championship boys’ basketball team. 1599

H.C.R. 337 Designating April 2018 as Veterans Suicide Awareness Month in Vermont. 1599
H.C.R. 338 Congratulating the 2018 Middlebury Union High School Tigers Division II championship boys’ Nordic skiing team.................................................1599

H.C.R. 339 Congratulating the 2018 Middlebury Union High School Tigers Division II championship girls’ Nordic skiing team.................................................1600

H.C.R. 340 Honoring Vermont’s electric utility lineworkers for their special role in the creation, maintenance, and restoration of the State’s electric power line system........................................................................................................1600

H.C.R. 341 Honoring the Vermont Senior Games Association for its encouragement of physical fitness for older Vermonter........................................1600

H.C.R. 342 Congratulating Wallace L. Mattison of Pownal on his appointment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France........................................1600

H.C.R. 343 Congratulating Special Olympics International on its 50th anniversary and extending best wishes to the Special Olympics Vermont delegation competing in the Special Olympics 2018 USA Games........1600

H.C.R. 344 Commending the agriculture community’s contributions in support of the objectives of Earth Day.......................................................1600

H.C.R. 345 Congratulating the 2018 Vermont-associated winter Olympians ........................................................................................................1600
An act relating to inmate access to prescription drugs

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 801 is amended to read:

§ 801. MEDICAL CARE OF INMATES

* * *

(e)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an offender who is admitted to a correctional facility while under the medical care of a licensed physician, a licensed physician assistant, or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed nurse practitioner and who is taking medication at the time of admission pursuant to a valid prescription as verified by the inmate’s pharmacy of record, primary care provider, other licensed care provider, or as verified by the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System or other prescription monitoring or information system shall be entitled to continue that medication and to be provided that medication by the Department pending an evaluation by a licensed physician, a licensed physician assistant, a licensed nurse practitioner, or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse.

(2) However, notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Department may defer provision of a validly prescribed medication in accordance with this subsection if, in the clinical judgment of a licensed physician, a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner, or an advanced practice registered nurse, it is not in the inmate’s best interest medically necessary to continue the medication at that time.

(3) The licensed practitioner who makes the clinical judgment to discontinue a medication shall enter cause the reason for the discontinuance to be entered into the inmate’s permanent medical record, specifically stating the reason for the discontinuance. The inmate shall be provided, both orally and in writing, with a specific explanation of the decision to discontinue the medication and with notice of the right to have his or her community-based prescriber notified of the decision. If the inmate provides signed authorization, the Department shall notify the community-based prescriber in
writing of the decision to discontinue the medication.

(4) It is not the intent of the General Assembly that this subsection shall create a new or additional private right of action.

* * *

Sec. 2. DATA COLLECTION

(a) The Department of Corrections shall collect information on: how often a medication for which an inmate has a valid prescription is continued or discontinued upon incarceration at each correctional facility, the name of the medication, and the reason for discontinuance.

(b) The Department shall collect this information for a period of at least six months and provide a written report of its findings based on the data collected, including a breakdown by correctional facility of record, to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on or before January 31, 2019. Prior to finalizing the report, the Department shall consult with the Prisoners’ Rights Office and Disability Rights Vermont.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require the Department to reveal individually identifiable health information in violation of State or federal law.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 2 shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 1 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(For text see House Journal March 13, 2018 )

ACTION CALENDAR

Third Reading

H. 926
An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Colchester

S. 92
An act relating to interchangeable biological products

S. 173
An act relating to sealing criminal history records when there is no conviction

S. 289
An act relating to protecting consumers and promoting an open Internet in Vermont.

- 1572 -
Amendment to be offered by Reps. Kimbell of Woodstock, Conquest of Newbury and Sibilia of Dover to S. 289

That the House Proposal of Amendment be amended by adding a new Sec. 5, and accompanying reader assistance heading, to read as follows:

* * * Vermont Universal Service Fund; Temporary Rate Increase; Connectivity Fund * * *

Sec. 5. 30 V.S.A. § 7523 is amended to read:

§ 7523. RATE OF CHARGE

(a) Beginning on July 1, 2014, the rate of charge shall be two percent of retail telecommunications service.

(b) Beginning on July 1, 2018 and ending on June 30, 2022, the rate of charge established under subsection (a) of this section shall be increased by one-half of one percent of retail telecommunications service, and the monies collected from this increase shall be transferred to the Connectivity Fund established under section 7516 of this title.

(c) Universal Service Charges imposed and collected by the fiscal agent under this subchapter shall not be transferred to any other fund or used to support the cost of any activity other than in the manner authorized by this section and section 7511 of this title.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

Favorable

H. 927

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Montpelier

Rep. Lewis of Berlin, for the Committee on Government Operations, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 9-0-2)

Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

Amendment to be offered by Reps. Lewis of Berlin and Gannon of Wilmington to H. 927

That the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 8, in § 805, by striking out the section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new § 805
to read:

§ 805. PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the City Council for two-year terms in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §§ 4322-4323, as may be amended from time to time. On October 1, 2018, the City Council shall appoint four members to two-year terms and three members to one-year terms. Thereafter all terms shall run for two years beginning on October 1. Appointments to vacated positions shall run until the expiration of the existing term. The Planning Commission shall perform such planning functions and duties as may be required by the City Council, this chapter, ordinances, or applicable State laws.

Second: In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 8, in § 806, in subsection (b), by striking out the subsection in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read:

(b) On May 1, 2018 the City Council shall appoint three members to three-year terms, three members to two-year terms, and one member and two alternates to one-year terms. Thereafter all terms shall run for three years beginning on May 1. Appointments to vacated positions shall run until the expiration of the existing term.

Action Postponed Until April 20, 2018

Called Up

S. 267

An act relating to timing of a decree nisi in a divorce proceeding

Pending Action: Second Reading

Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. chapter 85 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 85. WEAPONS

Subchapter 1. Generally

* * *

Subchapter 2. Extreme Risk Protection Orders

§ 4051. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Court” means the Family Division of the Superior Court.
(2) “Dangerous weapon” means an explosive or a firearm.

(3) “Explosive” means dynamite, or any explosive compound of which nitroglycerin forms a part, or fulminate in bulk or dry condition, or blasting caps, or detonating fuses, or blasting powder or any other similar explosive. The term does not include a firearm or ammunition therefor or any components of ammunition for a firearm, including primers, smokeless powder, or black gunpowder.

(4) “Federally licensed firearms dealer” means a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer required to conduct national instant criminal background checks under 18 U.S.C. § 922(t).

(5) “Firearm” shall have the same meaning as in subsection 4017(d) of this title.

(6) “Law enforcement agency” means the Vermont State Police, a municipal police department, or a sheriff’s department.

§ 4052. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

(a) The Family Division of the Superior Court shall have jurisdiction over proceedings under this subchapter.

(b) Emergency orders under section 4054 of this title may be issued by a judge of the Criminal, Civil, or Family Division of the Superior Court.

(c) Proceedings under this chapter shall be commenced in the county where the law enforcement agency is located, the county where the respondent resides, or the county where the events giving rise to the petition occur.

§ 4053. PETITION FOR EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

(a) A State’s Attorney or the Office of the Attorney General may file a petition requesting that the court issue an extreme risk protection order prohibiting a person from purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or having a dangerous weapon within the person’s custody or control. The petitioner shall submit an affidavit in support of the petition.

(b) Except as provided in section 4054 of this title, the court shall grant relief only after notice to the respondent and a hearing. The petitioner shall have the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence.

(c)(1) A petition filed pursuant to this section shall allege that the respondent poses an extreme risk of causing harm to himself or herself or another person by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within the respondent’s custody or control.

(2)(A) An extreme risk of harm to others may be shown by establishing that:
(i) the respondent has inflicted or attempted to inflict bodily harm on another; or

(ii) by his or her threats or actions the respondent has placed others in reasonable fear of physical harm to themselves; or

(iii) by his or her actions or inactions the respondent has presented a danger to persons in his or her care.

(B) An extreme risk of harm to himself or herself may be shown by establishing that the respondent has threatened or attempted suicide or serious bodily harm.

(3) The affidavit in support of the petition shall state:

(A) the specific facts supporting the allegations in the petition;

(B) any dangerous weapons the petitioner believes to be in the respondent’s possession, custody, or control; and

(C) whether the petitioner knows of an existing order with respect to the respondent under 15 V.S.A. chapter 21 (abuse prevention orders) or 12 V.S.A. chapter 178 (orders against stalking or sexual assault).

(d) The court shall hold a hearing within 14 days after a petition is filed under this section. Notice of the hearing shall be served pursuant to section 4056 of this title concurrently with the petition and any ex parte order issued under section 4054 of this title.

(e)(1) The court shall grant the petition and issue an extreme risk protection order if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent poses an extreme risk of causing harm to himself or herself or another person by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within the respondent’s custody or control.

(2) An order issued under this subsection shall prohibit a person from purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or having a dangerous weapon within the person’s custody or control for a period of up to one year. The order shall be signed by the judge and include the following provisions:

(A) A statement of the grounds for issuance of the order.

(B) The name and address of the court where any filings should be made, the names of the parties, the date of the petition, the date and time of the order, and the date and time the order expires.

(C) A description of how to appeal the order.

(D) A description of the requirements for relinquishment of
dangerous weapons under section 4059 of this title.

(E) A description of how to request termination of the order under section 4055 of this title. The court shall include with the order a form for a motion to terminate the order.

(F) A statement directing the law enforcement agency, approved federally licensed firearms dealer, or other person in possession of the firearm to release it to the owner upon expiration of the order.

(G) A statement in substantially the following form:

“To the subject of this protection order: This order shall be in effect until the date and time stated above. If you have not done so already, you are required to surrender all dangerous weapons in your custody, control, or possession to [insert name of law enforcement agency], a federally licensed firearms dealer, or a person approved by the court. While this order is in effect, you are not allowed to purchase, possess, or receive a dangerous weapon; attempt to purchase, possess, or receive a dangerous weapon; or have a dangerous weapon in your custody or control. You have the right to request one hearing to terminate this order during the period that this order is in effect, starting from the date of this order. You may seek the advice of an attorney regarding any matter connected with this order.”

(f) If the court denies a petition filed under this section, the court shall state the particular reasons for the denial in its decision.

(g) No filing fee shall be required for a petition filed under this section.

(h) Form petitions and form orders shall be provided by the Court Administrator and shall be maintained by the clerks of the courts.

(i) When findings are required under this section, the court shall make either written findings of fact or oral findings of fact on the record.

(j) Every final order issued under this section shall bear the following language: “VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE, OR BOTH, AS PROVIDED BY 13 V.S.A. § 4058, AND MAY ALSO BE PROSECUTED AS CRIMINAL CONTEMPT PUNISHABLE BY FINE OR IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH.”

(k) Affidavit forms required pursuant to this section shall bear the following language: “MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THIS AFFIDAVIT IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE, OR BOTH, AS PROVIDED BY 13 V.S.A. § 4058.”

§ 4054. EMERGENCY RELIEF; TEMPORARY EX PARTE ORDER

(a)(1) A State’s Attorney or the Office of the Attorney General may file a
motion requesting that the court issue an extreme risk protection order ex parte, without notice to the respondent. A law enforcement officer may notify the court that an ex parte extreme risk protection order is being requested pursuant to this section, but the court shall not issue the order until after the motion is submitted.

(2) The petitioner shall submit an affidavit in support of the motion alleging that the respondent poses an imminent and extreme risk of causing harm to himself or herself or another person by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within the respondent’s custody or control. The affidavit shall state:

(A) the specific facts supporting the allegations in the motion, including the imminent danger posed by the respondent; and

(B) any dangerous weapons the petitioner believes to be in the respondent’s possession, custody, or control.

(b)(1) The court shall grant the motion and issue a temporary ex parte extreme risk protection order if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that at the time the order is requested the respondent poses an imminent and extreme risk of causing harm to himself or herself or another person by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within the respondent’s custody or control. The petitioner shall cause a copy of the order to be served on the respondent pursuant to section 4056 of this title, and the court shall deliver a copy to the holding station.

(2)(A) An extreme risk of harm to others may be shown by establishing that:

(i) the respondent has inflicted or attempted to inflict bodily harm on another; or

(ii) by his or her threats or actions the respondent has placed others in reasonable fear of physical harm to themselves; or

(iii) by his or her actions or inactions the respondent has presented a danger to persons in his or her care.

(B) An extreme risk of harm to himself or herself may be shown by establishing that the respondent has threatened or attempted suicide or serious bodily harm.

(c)(1) Unless the petition is voluntarily dismissed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, the court shall hold a hearing within 14 days after the issuance of a temporary ex parte extreme risk protection order to determine if a final extreme risk protection order should be issued. If not voluntarily
dismissed, the temporary ex parte extreme risk protection order shall expire when the court grants or denies a motion for an extreme risk protection order under section 4053 of this title.

(2) The prosecutor may voluntarily dismiss a motion filed under this section at any time prior to the hearing if the prosecutor determines that the respondent no longer poses an extreme risk of causing harm to himself or herself or another person by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within the respondent’s custody or control. If the prosecutor voluntarily dismisses the motion pursuant to this subdivision, the court shall vacate the temporary ex parte extreme risk protection order and direct the person in possession of the dangerous weapon to return it to the respondent consistent with section 4059 of this title.

(d)(1) An order issued under this section shall prohibit a person from purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or having a dangerous weapon within the person’s custody or control for a period of up to 14 days. The order shall be in writing and signed by the judge and shall include the following provisions:

(A) A statement of the grounds for issuance of the order.

(B) The name and address of the court where any filings should be made, the names of the parties, the date of the petition, the date and time of the order, and the date and time the order expires.

(C) The date and time of the hearing when the respondent may appear to contest the order before the court. This opportunity to contest shall be scheduled as soon as reasonably possible, which in no event shall be more than 14 days after the date of issuance of the order.

(D) A description of the requirements for relinquishment of dangerous weapons under section 4059 of this title.

(E) A statement in substantially the following form:

“To the subject of this protection order: This order shall be in effect until the date and time stated above. If you have not done so already, you are required to surrender all dangerous weapons in your custody, control, or possession to [insert name of law enforcement agency], a federally licensed firearms dealer, or a person approved by the court. While this order is in effect, you are not allowed to purchase, possess, or receive a dangerous weapon; attempt to purchase, possess, or receive a dangerous weapon; or have a dangerous weapon in your custody or control. A hearing will be held on the date and time noted above to determine if a final extreme risk prevention order should be issued. Failure to appear at that hearing may result in a court making an order against you that is valid for up to 60 days. You may seek the
advice of an attorney regarding any matter connected with this order.”

(2)(A) The court may issue an ex parte extreme risk protection order by telephone or by reliable electronic means pursuant to this subdivision if requested by the petitioner.

(B) Upon receipt of a request for electronic issuance of an ex parte extreme risk protection order, the judicial officer shall inform the petitioner that a signed or unsigned motion and affidavit may be submitted electronically. The affidavit shall be sworn to or affirmed by administration of the oath over the telephone to the petitioner by the judicial officer. The administration of the oath need not be made part of the affidavit or recorded, but the judicial officer shall note on the affidavit that the oath was administered.

(C) The judicial officer shall decide whether to grant or deny the motion and issue the order solely on the basis of the contents of the motion and the affidavit or affidavits provided. If the motion is granted, the judicial officer shall immediately sign the original order, enter on its face the exact date and time it is issued, and transmit a copy to the petitioner by reliable electronic means. The petitioner shall cause a copy of the order to be served on the respondent pursuant to section 4056 of this title.

(D) On or before the next business day after the order is issued:

(i) the petitioner shall file the original motion and affidavit with the court; and

(ii) the judicial officer shall file the signed order, the motion, and the affidavit with the clerk. The clerk shall enter the documents on the docket immediately after filing.

(e) Form motions and form orders shall be provided by the Court Administrator and shall be maintained by the clerks of the courts.

(f) Every order issued under this section shall bear the following language: “VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE, OR BOTH, AS PROVIDED BY 13 V.S.A. § 4058, AND MAY ALSO BE PROSECUTED AS CRIMINAL CONTEMPT PUNISHABLE BY FINE OR IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH.”

(g) Affidavit forms required pursuant to this section shall bear the following language: “MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THIS AFFIDAVIT IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE, OR BOTH, AS PROVIDED BY 13 V.S.A. § 4058.”

(h) If the court denies a petition filed under this section, the court shall state the particular reasons for the denial in its decision.

§ 4055. TERMINATION AND RENEWAL MOTIONS
(a)(1) The respondent may file a motion to terminate an extreme risk protection order issued under section 4053 of this title or an order renewed under subsection (b) of this section. A motion to terminate shall not be filed more than once during the effective period of the order. The State shall have the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence.

(2) The court shall grant the motion and terminate the extreme risk protection order unless it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent continues to pose an extreme risk of causing harm to himself or herself or another person by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within the respondent’s custody or control.

(b)(1) A State’s Attorney or the Office of the Attorney General may file a motion requesting that the court renew an extreme risk protection order issued under this section or section 4053 of this title for an additional period of up to one year. The motion shall be accompanied by an affidavit and shall be filed not more than 30 days and not less than 14 days before the expiration date of the order. The motion and affidavit shall comply with the requirements of subsection 4053(c) of this title, and the moving party shall have the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence.

(2) The court shall grant the motion and renew the extreme risk protection order for an additional period of up to one year if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent continues to pose an extreme risk of causing harm to himself or herself or another person by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within the respondent’s custody or control. The order shall comply with the requirements of subdivision 4053(f)(2) and subsections 4053(j) and (k) of this title.

(c) The court shall hold a hearing within 14 days after a motion to terminate or a motion to renew is filed under this section. Notice of the hearing shall be served pursuant to section 4056 of this title concurrently with the motion.

(d) If the court denies a motion filed under this section, the court shall state the particular reasons for the denial in its decision.

(e) Form termination and form renewal motions shall be provided by the Court Administrator and shall be maintained by the clerks of the courts.

(f) When findings are required under this section, the court shall make either written findings of fact or oral findings of fact on the record.

§ 4056. SERVICE

(a) A petition, ex parte temporary order, or final order issued under this
subchapter shall be served in accordance with the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure and may be served by any law enforcement officer. A court that issues an order under this chapter during court hours shall promptly transmit the order electronically or by other means to a law enforcement agency for service, and shall deliver a copy to the holding station.

(b) A respondent who attends a hearing held under section 4053, 4054, or 4055 of this title at which a temporary or final order under this subchapter is issued and who receives notice from the court on the record that the order has been issued shall be deemed to have been served. A respondent notified by the court on the record shall be required to adhere immediately to the provisions of the order. However, even when the court has previously notified the respondent of the order, the court shall transmit the order for additional service by a law enforcement agency.

(c) Extreme risk protection orders shall be served by the law enforcement agency at the earliest possible time and shall take precedence over other summonses and orders. Orders shall be served in a manner calculated to ensure the safety of the parties. Methods of service that include advance notification to the respondent shall not be used. The person making service shall file a return of service with the court stating the date, time, and place at which the order was delivered personally to the respondent.

(d) If service of a notice of hearing issued under section 4053 or 4055 of this title cannot be made before the scheduled hearing, the court shall continue the hearing and extend the terms of the order upon request of the petitioner for such additional time as it deems necessary to achieve service on the respondent.

§ 4057. PROCEDURE

(a) Except as otherwise specified, proceedings commenced under this subchapter shall be in accordance with the Vermont Rules for Family Proceedings and shall be in addition to any other available civil or criminal remedies.

(b) The Court Administrator shall establish procedures to ensure access to relief after regular court hours or on weekends and holidays. The Court Administrator is authorized to contract with public or private agencies to assist petitioners to seek relief and to gain access to Superior Courts. Law enforcement agencies shall assist in carrying out the intent of this section.

(c) The Court Administrator shall ensure that the Superior Court has procedures in place so that the contents of orders and pendency of other proceedings can be known to all courts for cases in which an extreme risk protection order proceeding is related to a criminal proceeding.
§ 4058. ENFORCEMENT; CRIMINAL PENALTIES

(a) Law enforcement officers are authorized to enforce orders issued under this chapter. Enforcement may include collecting and disposing of dangerous weapons pursuant to section 4059 of this title and making an arrest in accordance with the provisions of Rule 3 of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure.

(b)(1) A person who intentionally commits an act prohibited by a court or fails to perform an act ordered by a court, in violation of an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 4053, 4054, or 4055 of this title, after the person has been served with notice of the contents of the order as provided for in this subchapter, shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than $1,000.00, or both.

(2) A person who files a petition for an extreme risk protection order under this subchapter knowing that information in the petition is false or with the intent to harass the respondent shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than $1,000.00, or both.

(c) In addition to the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, violation of an order issued under this subchapter may be prosecuted as criminal contempt under Rule 42 of Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure. The prosecution for criminal contempt may be initiated by the State’s Attorney in the county in which the violation occurred. The maximum penalty that may be imposed under this subsection shall be a fine of $1,000.00 or imprisonment for six months, or both. A sentence of imprisonment upon conviction for criminal contempt may be stayed, in the discretion of the court, pending the expiration of the time allowed for filing notice of appeal or pending appeal if any appeal is taken.

§ 4059. RELINQUISHMENT, STORAGE, AND RETURN OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS

(a) A person who is required to relinquish a dangerous weapon other than a firearm in the person’s possession, custody, or control by an extreme risk protection order issued under section 4053, 4054, or 4055 of this title shall upon service of the order immediately relinquish the dangerous weapon to a cooperating law enforcement agency. The law enforcement agency shall transfer the weapon to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for proper disposition.

(b)(1) A person who is required to relinquish a firearm in the person’s possession, custody, or control by an extreme risk protection order issued under section 4053, 4054, or 4055 of this title shall, unless the court orders an alternative relinquishment pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, upon
service of the order immediately relinquish the firearm to a cooperating law enforcement agency or an approved federally licensed firearms dealer.

(2)(A) The court may order that the person relinquish a firearm to a person other than a cooperating law enforcement agency or an approved federally licensed firearms dealer unless the court finds that relinquishment to the other person will not adequately protect the safety of any person.

(B) A person to whom a firearm is relinquished pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall execute an affidavit on a form approved by the Court Administrator stating that the person:

(i) acknowledges receipt of the firearm;

(ii) assumes responsibility for storage of the firearm until further order of the court and specifies the manner in which he or she will provide secure storage;

(iii) is not prohibited from owning or possessing firearms under State or federal law; and

(iv) understands the obligations and requirements of the court order, including the potential for the person to be subject to civil contempt proceedings pursuant to subdivision (C) of this subdivision (2) if the person permits the firearm to be possessed, accessed, or used by the person who relinquished the item or by any other person not authorized by law to do so.

(C) A person to whom a firearm is relinquished pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall be subject to civil contempt proceedings under 12 V.S.A. chapter 5 if the person permits the firearm to be possessed, accessed, or used by the person who relinquished the item or by any other person not authorized by law to do so. In the event that the person required to relinquish the firearm or any other person not authorized by law to possess the relinquished item obtains access to, possession of, or use of a relinquished item, all relinquished items shall be immediately transferred to the possession of a law enforcement agency or approved federally licensed firearms dealer pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

(b) A law enforcement agency or an approved federally licensed firearms dealer that takes possession of a firearm pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall photograph, catalogue, and store the item in accordance with standards and guidelines established by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2307(i)(3).

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the lawful sale of firearms or other items.

(d) An extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 4053 of this
title or renewed pursuant to section 4055 of this title shall direct the law
enforcement agency, approved federally licensed firearms dealer, or other
person in possession of a firearm under subsection (b) of this section to release
it to the owner upon expiration of the order.

(e)(1) A law enforcement agency, an approved federally licensed firearms
dealer, or any other person who takes possession of a firearm for storage
purposes pursuant to this section shall not release it to the owner without a
court order unless the firearm is to be sold pursuant to subdivision (2)(A) of
this subsection. If a court orders the release of a firearm stored under this
section, the law enforcement agency or firearms dealer in possession of the
firearm shall make it available to the owner within three business days after
receipt of the order and in a manner consistent with federal law.

(2)(A)(i) If the owner fails to retrieve the firearm within 90 days after
the court order releasing it, the firearm may be sold for fair market value.
Title to the firearm shall pass to the law enforcement agency or firearms dealer
for the purpose of transferring ownership.

(ii) The law enforcement agency or firearms dealer shall make a
reasonable effort to notify the owner of the sale before it occurs. In no event
shall the sale occur until after the court issues a final extreme risk protection
order pursuant to section 4053 of this title.

(iii) As used in this subdivision (2)(A), “reasonable effort” shall
mean notice shall be served as provided for by Rule 4 of the Vermont Rules of
Civil Procedure.

(B) Proceeds from the sale of a firearm pursuant to subdivision (A)
of this subdivision (2) shall be apportioned as follows:

(i) associated costs, including the costs of sale and of locating and
serving the owner, shall be paid to the law enforcement agency or firearms
dealer that incurred the cost; and

(ii) any proceeds remaining after payment is made to the law
enforcement agency or firearms dealer pursuant to subdivision (i) of this
subdivision (2)(B) shall be paid to the original owner.

(f) A law enforcement agency shall be immune from civil or criminal
liability for any damage or deterioration of a firearm stored or transported
pursuant to this section. This subsection shall not apply if the damage or
deterioration occurred as a result of recklessness, gross negligence, or
intentional misconduct by the law enforcement agency.

(g) This section shall be implemented consistent with the standards and
guidelines established by the Department of Public Safety under 20 V.S.A.
§ 2307(i).
(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter:

(1) A dangerous weapon shall not be returned to the respondent if the respondent’s possession of the weapon would be prohibited by state or federal law.

(2) A dangerous weapon shall not be taken into possession pursuant to this section if it is being or may be used as evidence in a pending criminal matter.

§ 4060. APPEALS

An extreme risk protection order issued by the court under section 4053 or 4055 of this title shall be treated as a final order for the purposes of appeal. Appeal may be taken by either party to the Supreme Court under the Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure, and the appeal shall be determined forthwith.

§ 4061. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS

This chapter shall not be construed to prevent a court from prohibiting a person from possessing firearms under any other provision of law.

Sec. 2. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) The State of Vermont has a compelling interest in preventing domestic abuse.

(2) Domestic violence is often volatile, escalates rapidly, and is possibly fatal. The victim has a substantial interest in obtaining immediate relief because any delay may result in further injury or death. The State’s compelling interest in protecting domestic violence victims from actual or threatened harm and safeguarding children from the effects of exposure to domestic violence justifies providing law enforcement officers with the authority to undertake immediate measures to stop the violence. For these reasons the State has a special need to remove firearms from a home where law enforcement has probable cause to believe domestic violence has occurred.

(3) The General Assembly recognizes that it is current practice for law enforcement to remove firearms from a domestic violence scene if the firearms are contraband or evidence of the offense. However, given the potential harm of delay during a domestic violence incident, this legislation authorizes law enforcement officers to temporarily remove other dangerous firearms from persons arrested or cited for domestic violence, while protecting rights guaranteed by the Vermont and U.S. Constitutions, and insuring that those firearms are returned to the owner as soon as doing so would be safe and lawful.
Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 1048 is added to read:

§ 1048. REMOVAL OF FIREARMS

(a)(1) When a law enforcement officer arrests, cites, or obtains an arrest warrant for a person for domestic assault in violation of this subchapter, the officer may remove any firearm obtained pursuant to a search warrant or a judicially recognized exception to the warrant requirement if the removal is necessary for the protection of the officer or any other person.

(2) As used in this section, “judicially recognized exception to the warrant requirement” includes a search incident to a lawful arrest, a search with consent, a search under exigent circumstances, a search of objects in plain view, and a search pursuant to a regulatory statute.

(b) A person cited for domestic assault shall be arraigned on the next business day after the citation is issued except for good cause shown.

(c)(1) At arraignment, the court shall issue a written order releasing any firearms removed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section unless:

(A) the firearm is being or may be used as evidence in a pending criminal or civil proceeding;

(B) a court orders relinquishment of the firearm pursuant to 15 V.S.A. chapter 21 (abuse prevention) or any other provision of law consistent with 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8), in which case the weapon shall be stored pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2307;

(C) the person requesting the return is prohibited by law from possessing a firearm; or

(D) the court imposes a condition requiring the defendant not to possess a firearm.

(2) If the court under subdivision (1) of this subsection orders the release of a firearm removed under subsection (a) of this section, the law enforcement agency in possession of the firearm shall make it available to the owner within three business days after receipt of the written order and in a manner consistent with federal law.

(d)(1) A law enforcement officer shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability for acts or omissions made in reliance on the provisions of this section. This section shall not be construed to create a legal duty to a victim or to any other person, and no action may be filed based upon a claim that a law enforcement officer removed or did not remove a firearm as authorized by this section.

(2) A law enforcement agency shall be immune from civil or criminal
liability for any damage or deterioration of firearms removed, stored, or transported pursuant to this section. This subdivision shall not apply if the damage or deterioration occurred as a result of recklessness, gross negligence, or intentional misconduct by the law enforcement agency.

(3) This section shall not be construed to limit the authority of a law enforcement agency to take any necessary and appropriate action, including disciplinary action, regarding an officer’s performance in connection with this section.

Sec. 4. 15 V.S.A. § 554 is amended to read:

§ 554. DECREES NISI

(a) A decree of divorce from the bonds of matrimony in the first instance, shall be a decree nisi and shall become absolute at the expiration of three months 90 days from the entry thereof but, in its discretion, the court which grants the divorce may fix an earlier date upon which the decree shall become absolute. If one of the parties dies prior to the expiration of the nisi period, the decree shall be deemed absolute immediately prior to death.

(b) Either party may file any post-trial motions under the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. The time within which any such motion shall be filed shall run from the date of entry of the decree of divorce and not from the date the nisi period expires. The court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and decide the motion after expiration of the nisi period. A decree of divorce shall constitute a civil judgment under the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

(c) If the stated term at which the decree nisi was entered has adjourned when a motion is filed, the presiding judge of the stated term shall have power to hear and determine the matter and make new decree therein as fully as the court might have done in term time; but, in the judge’s discretion, the judge may strike off the decree and continue the cause to the next stated term.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 7-0-4)

NOTICE CALENDAR
Committee Bill for Second Reading
H. 928

An act relating to compensation for certain State employees (Pay Act).

(Rep. Brumsted of Shelburne will speak for the Committee on Government Operations.)
Favorable with Amendment

S. 70

An act relating to the nutritional requirements for children’s meals

Rep. Haas of Rochester, for the Committee on Human Services, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4310 is added to read:

§ 4310. BEVERAGES IN CHILDREN’S MEALS

(a) A food service establishment serving a children’s meal shall offer one or more of the following as a default beverage:

(1) water, sparkling water, or flavored water that does not contain added natural or artificial sweeteners;
(2) milk or a nondairy milk alternative; or
(3) 100 percent fruit juice or fruit juice combined with water or carbonated water that does not contain added sweeteners, in a serving size of not more than eight ounces.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a food service establishment from selling or providing, or a customer from purchasing, a beverage other than the default beverage included with a children’s meal if the customer requests a substitute beverage.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) “Children’s meal” means a combination of food items and a beverage, primarily intended for consumption by children, sold together at a single price.
(2) “Default beverage” means the beverage automatically included as part of a children’s meal.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to nutritional beverages in children’s meals”

(Committee vote: 6-5-0 )

(For text see Senate Journal February 23, 2018 )
S. 85

An act relating to simplifying government for small businesses

Rep. Hill of Wolcott, for the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES;
ONE-STOP BUSINESS PORTAL

(a) The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, and the Secretary of Digital Services or their designees shall serve as a steering committee that, in collaboration with leaders of the Program to Improve Vermont Outcomes Together, other State agencies, and business community stakeholders, shall gather requirements and review and consider the necessary procedural and substantive steps to create a one-stop business portal for businesses, entrepreneurs, and citizens that provides information about starting and operating a business in Vermont.

(b) The steering committee shall evaluate the cost and efficacy of potential features of the portal, including features that:

(1) enhance State websites to simplify registrations and provide a clear compilation of other State business requirements, including permits and licenses;

(2) simplify the mechanism for making payments to the State, by allowing a person to pay amounts he or she owes to the State for taxes, fees, or other charges to a single recipient within State government;

(3) simplify annual filing requirements by allowing a person to make a single filing to a single recipient within State government and check a box if nothing substantive has changed from the prior year;

(4) provide guidance, assistance with navigation, and other support to persons who are forming or operating a small business;

(5) after registration, provide information about additional and ongoing State requirements and a point of contact to discuss questions or explore any assistance needed;

(6) provide guidance and information about State and federal programs and initiatives, as well as State partner organizations and Vermont-based businesses of interest; and

(7) map communication channels for project updates, including digital channels such as e-mail, social media, and other communications.
(c) State agencies and departments shall provide assistance to the steering committee upon its request.

(d) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary of State, on behalf of the steering committee, shall submit a design proposal, including a project scope, timeline, and roadmap and the resources and any statutory or regulatory changes needed to implement a one-stop business portal.

(e) The steering committee shall focus its review on providing services through the one-stop business portal primarily for the benefit of businesses with 20 or fewer employees.

(f) The Agency of Digital Services shall temporarily assign a project manager or business analyst to report directly to the Secretary of State to assist with the implementation of this act.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 1(f) shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 9-0-2 )

(For text see Senate Journal March 27, 2018 )

S. 280

An act relating to the Advisory Council for Strengthening Families

Rep. Noyes of Wolcott, for the Committee on Human Services, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHILD POVERTY AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

(a)(1) There is created the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families to:

(A) identify and examine structural and other issues in Vermont that:

(i) lead to families living in poverty; and

(ii) create conditions that prevent families from moving out of poverty; and

(B) advance policies that:

(i) promote financial stability and asset building;

(ii) support safety nets for families with low income; and

(iii) mitigate the effects of childhood poverty.
(2) The Advisory Council shall provide guidance and recommend policies that either reduce incidences of or mitigate the effects of childhood poverty. It shall serve as an educational forum for both its members and the public. The Advisory Council shall use data better to understand existing and emerging challenges to children and families living in poverty.

(3) The Advisory Council shall monitor the development and implementation of the Agency of Human Services’ childhood trauma response plan required pursuant to 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 4.

(b) (1) Voting membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of the following 15 voting members:

(A) the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or designee;
(B) the Speaker of the House or designee;
(C) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or designee;
(D) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare or designee;
(E) the Chair of the House Committee on Education or designee;
(F) the Chair of the House Committee on Human Services or designee;
(G) a member appointed by Voices for Vermont’s Children;
(H) a member appointed by the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council;
(I) a member appointed by Vermont Legal Aid;
(J) a member appointed by the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights;
(K) a member appointed by the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition;
(L) a nongovernmental designee of the Child and Family Trauma Work Group who does not otherwise represent an organization with membership on this Council;
(M) an employee of the prekindergarten through grade 12 public education delivery system in Vermont appointed jointly by the Executive Directors of the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont Principals’ Association, and the Vermont Council of Special Education Coordinators;
(N) a business owner appointed by Vermont Businesses Roundtable; and
(O) a member appointed by the Vermont Community Action Partnership.

(2) Nonvoting membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of the following five nonvoting members or designees:

(A) the Secretary of Education;
(B) the Secretary of Human Services;
(C) the Commissioner for Children and Families;
(D) the Commissioner of Health; and
(E) the Commissioner of Labor.

(c) Assistance. The Advisory Council shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

(d) Work products.

(1) Compilation of minutes. On or before January 1 of each year, the Advisory Council shall submit to the General Assembly a compilation of its meeting minutes from the previous calendar year that summarizes the Advisory Council’s activities and decisions.

(2) Recommendations. On or before January 1 of each year, the Advisory Council shall submit a list of policy recommendations and legislative priorities from the previous calendar year to the General Assembly or to the appropriate State agency or organization that are aimed at reducing incidences of or mitigating the effects of childhood poverty.

(3) Legislation. On or before November 15 of each year, the Advisory Council may prepare legislation for introduction by one or more of its legislative members that contains any of the Advisory Council’s policy recommendations for reducing incidences of or mitigating the effects of childhood poverty.

(e) Meetings.

(1) The member of the House Committee on Human Services shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Council to occur on or before July 1 of each year.

(2) Each year the Advisory Council shall select a chair from among its legislative members at the first meeting. The Advisory Council may select a vice chair from among its legislative members.

(3) A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

(4) At least once annually, the Advisory Council shall meet in a location...
other than the State House for the purpose of receiving testimony from members of Vermont families experiencing poverty or organizations providing direct services to Vermont families experiencing poverty.

(5)(A) The Advisory Council shall cease to exist on July 1, 2028.

(B) Five years prior, in 2023, the Advisory Council shall conduct a midterm review of its achievements and effectiveness using results-based accountability. Among any other benchmarks that the Advisory Council chooses to measure pursuant to subdivision (C) of this subdivision (5), it shall review, as compared to 2016:

(i) the number and percentage of children living in families at 50 percent, 100 percent, and 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and

(ii) the number and percentage of children living in families paying more than 30 percent of their cash income for housing and related expenses.

(C) On or before January 1, 2019, the Advisory Council shall identify any additional benchmarks it plans to measure during its 2023 midterm review.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Advisory Council serving in his or her capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than six meetings.

(2) Other members of the Advisory Council who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings.

(3) Payments to members of the Advisory Council authorized under this subsection shall be made from monies appropriated by the General Assembly.

Sec. 2. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 60, Sec. 23(h) is amended to read:

(h) Sunset. On June 1, 2018 2021, this section (creating the Joint Legislative Child Protection Oversight Committee) is repealed and the Committee shall cease to exist.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage; provided, however, that if the date of passage is after June 1, 2018, then notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 2 shall
apply retroactively to June 1, 2018.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families”

(Committee vote: 11-0-0 )

(For text see Senate Journal February 16, 2018 )

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 27

An act relating to eliminating the statute of limitations on prosecutions for sexual assault

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 1386 is added to read:

§ 1386. EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

In accordance with 21 V.S.A. § 306, it is the policy of the State of Vermont that no confidential employment separation agreement shall inhibit the disclosure to prospective employers or responsible licensing entities of factual information about a prospective employee’s background that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the prospective employee has engaged in conduct jeopardizing the safety of a vulnerable adult or minor.

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 253 is amended to read:

§ 253. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS

(a) Criminal records and criminal record information received under this subchapter are designated confidential unless, under State or federal law or regulation, the record or information may be disclosed to specifically designated persons.

(b) The Secretary, a superintendent, or a headmaster may disclose criminal records and criminal record information received under this subchapter to a qualified entity upon request, provided that the qualified entity has signed a user agreement and received authorization from the subject of the record request. As used in this section, “qualified entity” means an individual, organization, or governmental body doing business in Vermont that has one or more individuals performing services for it within the State and that provides care or services to children, persons who are elders, or persons with disabilities as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 5119c.

(c) In accordance with 21 V.S.A. § 306, a board member, superintendent, or headmaster shall not enter into on behalf of a supervisory union, school
district, or recognized or approved independent school a confidential employment separation agreement that inhibits the disclosure to prospective employers or responsible licensing entities of factual information about a prospective employee’s background that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the prospective employee has engaged in conduct jeopardizing the safety of a minor. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary under 33 V.S.A. chapter 49, a board member, superintendent, or headmaster and employees of a supervisory union, school district, or recognized or approved independent school shall provide factually correct information concerning a former employee’s employment record with the supervisory union, school district, or recognized or approved independent school to a prospective employer of that individual if requested by the prospective employer. Nothing in this subsection shall permit the disclosure of information that is prohibited from disclosure by subsection (b) of this section. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a person shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability for disclosing information that is required by this section to be disclosed if the person was acting in good faith and reasonably believed at the time of disclosure that the information disclosed was factually correct.

Sec. 3. COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTING STUDENTS FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

(a) Creation. There is created the Committee for Protecting Students from Sexual Exploitation.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following ten members:

(1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

(2) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;

(3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools Association or designee;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Educators Association or designee;

(5) the Executive Director of Child Abuse Vermont or designee;

(6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or designee;

(7) the Executive Director of the Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs or designee;

(8) the Defender General or designee;
(9) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee; and

(10) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association or designee.

c) Powers and duties. The Committee, in consultation with school personnel, shall:

(1) develop a model policy for adoption by public schools and recognized and approved independent schools, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11, on electronic communications between school employees and students, designed to prevent improper communications; and

(2) recommend whether behaviors by an employee of, or contractor for, a public school or recognized or approved independent school designed to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with a child or a student, so called “grooming behaviors,” should be unlawful under Vermont law, and, if the Committee recommends that grooming behaviors should be unlawful, shall include in its recommendation:

(A) how grooming behaviors should be defined;

(B) whether all students or children in a school environment should be covered;

(C) whether the behavior should result in a misdemeanor or a felony, and the related punishment; and

(D) the statute of limitations for bringing a related action.

d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

e) Report. On or before October 15, 2019, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Judiciary with its findings and any recommendations.

f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2018.

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

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on October 16, 2019.

Sec. 4. 21 V.S.A. § 306 is amended to read:

§ 306. PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE OF VERMONT; EMPLOYMENT
SEPARATION AGREEMENTS

In support of the State’s fundamental interest in protecting the safety of minors and vulnerable adults, as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 6902, it is the policy of the State of Vermont that no confidential employment separation agreement shall inhibit the disclosure to prospective employers or responsible licensing entities of factual information about a prospective employee’s background that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the prospective employee has engaged in conduct jeopardizing the safety of a minor or vulnerable adult. Any provision in an agreement entered into on or after the effective date of this section that attempts to do so is void and unenforceable.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.
And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:
An act relating to sexual exploitation of students.

(For text see House Journal February 16, 2017 )

Ordered to Lie

H. 167

An act relating to alternative approaches to addressing low-level illicit drug use.
Pending Question: Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?

H. 219

An act relating to the Vermont spaying and neutering program.
Pending Question: Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?

Consent Calendar

Concurrent Resolutions

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Secretary’s office and/or the House Clerk’s office, respectively. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar and Senate Calendar.
H.C.R. 328

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2017 Rivendell Academy Raptors Division IV championship boys’ soccer team

H.C.R. 329

House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of Newport City

H.C.R. 330

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Our Community Cares Camp organization on entering its 10th year of operation

H.C.R. 331

House concurrent resolution honoring Dawn Francis for her career achievements as a regional planner, municipal administrator, and public policy advocate

H.C.R. 332

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 BFA-St. Albans Comets Division I championship girls’ ice hockey team

H.C.R. 333

House concurrent resolution honoring Karen Richard for her exemplary municipal public service career in the town of Colchester

H.C.R. 334

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 BFA-St. Albans Comets State championship girls’ snowboarding team

H.C.R. 335

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mount Anthony Union High School wrestling team on its 30th consecutive State championship

H.C.R. 336

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Windsor High School Yellowjackets Division III championship boys’ basketball team

H.C.R. 337

House concurrent resolution designating April 2018 as Veterans Suicide Awareness Month in Vermont

H.C.R. 338

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Middlebury Union High School Tigers Division II championship boys’ Nordic skiing team
H.C.R. 339
House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Middlebury Union High School Tigers Division II championship girls’ Nordic skiing team

H.C.R. 340
House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont’s electric utility lineworkers for their special role in the creation, maintenance, and restoration of the State’s electric power line system

H.C.R. 341
House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont Senior Games Association for its encouragement of physical fitness for older Vermonter
ers

H.C.R. 342
House concurrent resolution congratulating Wallace L. Mattison of Pownal on his appointment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France

H.C.R. 343
House concurrent resolution congratulating Special Olympics International on its 50th anniversary and extending best wishes to the Special Olympics Vermont delegation competing in the Special Olympics 2018 USA Games

H.C.R. 344
House concurrent resolution commending the agriculture community’s contributions in support of the objectives of Earth Day

H.C.R. 345
House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Vermont-associated winter Olympians