

Senate Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

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**ACTION CALENDAR
UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 222.

An act relating to technical amendments to civil and criminal procedure statutes.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sears for the Committee on Judiciary.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 8007(c) is amended to read:

(c) An assurance of discontinuance shall be in writing and signed by the respondent and shall specify the statute or regulation alleged to have been violated. The assurance of discontinuance shall be simultaneously filed with the Attorney General and the Environmental Division. The Secretary or the Natural Resources Board shall post a final draft assurance of discontinuance to its website and shall provide a final draft assurance of discontinuance to a person upon request. When signed by the Environmental Division, the assurance shall become a judicial order. Upon motion by the Attorney General made within ~~10~~ 14 days ~~of~~ after the date the assurance is signed by the Division and upon a finding that the order is insufficient to carry out the purposes of this chapter, the Division shall vacate the order.

Sec. 2. 12 V.S.A. § 1 is amended to read:

§ 1. RULES OF PLEADING, PRACTICE, AND PROCEDURE; FORMS

The Supreme Court is empowered to prescribe and amend from time to time general rules with respect to pleadings, practice, evidence, procedure, and forms for all actions and proceedings in all courts of this State. The rules thus prescribed or amended shall not abridge, enlarge, or modify any substantive rights of any person provided by law. The rules when initially prescribed or any amendments thereto, including any repeal, modification, or addition, shall take effect on the date provided by the Supreme Court in its order of promulgation, unless objected to by the ~~Joint~~ Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules as provided by this chapter. If objection is made by the ~~Joint~~

Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules, the initially prescribed rules in question shall not take effect until they have been reported to the General Assembly by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at any regular, adjourned, or special session thereof, and until after the expiration of 45 legislative days of that session, including the date of the filing of the report. The General Assembly may repeal, revise, or modify any rule or amendment thereto, and its action shall not be abridged, enlarged, or modified by subsequent rule.

Sec. 3. 12 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:

§ 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in sections 3 and 4 of this chapter:

(1) “Adopting authority” means the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or the ~~administrative judge~~ Chief Superior Judge, where appropriate;

(2) “Court” means the Supreme Court, except in those instances where the statutes permit rules to be adopted by the ~~administrative judge~~ Chief Superior Judge, in which case, the word “court” means the ~~administrative judge~~; Chief Superior Judge.

* * *

Sec. 4. 12 V.S.A. § 701 is amended to read:

§ 701. SUMMONS

(a) Any law enforcement officer authorized to serve criminal process or a State’s Attorney may summon a person who commits an offense to appear before Superior Court by a summons in such form as prescribed by the Court Administrator, stating the time when, and the place where, the person shall appear, signed by the enforcement officer or State’s Attorney and delivered to the person.

* * *

~~(d) A person who does not so appear in response to a summons for a traffic offense as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 2201 shall be fined not more than \$100.00. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 5. 12 V.S.A. § 3125 is amended to read:

§ 3125. PAYMENT OF TRUSTEE’S CLAIM BY CREDITOR

When it appears that personal property in the hands of a person summoned as a trustee is mortgaged, pledged, or liable for the payment of a debt due to him or her, the court may allow the attaching creditor to pay or tender the amount due to the trustee, and he or she shall thereupon deliver such property, as ~~hereinbefore~~ provided in this subchapter, to the officer holding the execution.

Sec. 6. 12 V.S.A. § 3351 is amended to read:

§ 3351. ATTACHMENT, TAKING IN EXECUTION, AND SALE

Personal property not exempt from attachment, subject to a mortgage, pledge, or lien, may be attached, taken in execution, and sold as the property of the mortgagor, pledgor, or general owner, in the same manner as other personal property, except as ~~hereinafter~~ otherwise provided in this subchapter.

Sec. 7. 18 V.S.A. § 4245 is amended to read:

§ 4245. REMISSION OR MITIGATION OF FORFEITURE

(a) On petition filed within 90 days of after completion of a forfeiture proceeding, ~~the claims commission established in 32 V.S.A. § 931~~ a court that issued a forfeiture order pursuant to section 4244 of this title may order that the forfeiture be remitted or mitigated. The petition shall be sworn, and shall include all information necessary for its resolution or shall describe where such information can be obtained. Upon receiving a petition, the ~~claims commission court~~ shall investigate and may conduct a hearing if in its judgment it would be helpful to resolution of the petition. The ~~claims commission court~~ shall either grant or deny the petition within 90 days.

(b) The ~~claims commission court~~ may remit or mitigate a forfeiture upon finding that relief should be granted to avoid extreme hardship or upon finding that the petitioner has a valid, good faith interest in the property which is not held through a straw purchase, trust, or otherwise for the benefit of another and that the petitioner did not at any time have knowledge or reason to believe that the property was being or would be used in violation of the law.

Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 4474g(b) is amended to read:

(b) Prior to acting on an application for a Registry identification card, the Department shall obtain with respect to the applicant a Vermont criminal history record, an out-of-state criminal history record, and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Each applicant shall consent to the release of criminal history records to the Department on forms developed by the Vermont Crime Information Center. A fingerprint-supported, out-of-state criminal history record and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall be required only every three years for renewal of a card for a dispensary owner, principal, and financier.

Sec. 9. REPEAL

2017 Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. 60 (amending 32 V.S.A. § 5412) is repealed.

Sec. 10. 3 V.S.A. § 163 is amended to read:

§ 163. JUVENILE COURT DIVERSION PROJECT

(a) The Attorney General shall develop and administer a juvenile court diversion project for the purpose of assisting juveniles charged with delinquent acts. ~~Rules which were adopted by the Vermont Commission on the Administration of Justice to implement the juvenile court diversion project shall be adapted by the Attorney General to the programs and projects established under this section.~~ In consultation with the diversion programs, the Attorney General shall adopt a policies and procedures manual in compliance with this section.

(b) The diversion ~~project program~~ program administered by the Attorney General shall ~~encourage the development~~ support the operation of diversion ~~projects~~ programs in local communities through grants of financial assistance to, or by contracting for services with, municipalities, private groups, or other local organizations. The Attorney General may require local financial contributions as a condition of receipt of project ~~grants~~ funding.

* * *

Sec. 11. 3 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

§ 164. ADULT COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

(a) The Attorney General shall develop and administer an adult court diversion program in all counties. ~~The program shall be operated through the juvenile diversion project.~~ In consultation with Diversion programs, the Attorney General shall adopt only such rules as are necessary to establish an adult court diversion program for adults a policies and procedures manual, in compliance with this section.

* * *

(c) The program shall ~~encourage the development~~ support the operation of diversion programs in local communities through grants of financial assistance to, or contracts for services with, municipalities, private groups, or other local organizations. The Attorney General may require local financial contributions as a condition of receipt of program ~~grants~~ funding.

* * *

(e) All adult court diversion programs receiving financial assistance from the Attorney General shall adhere to the following provisions:

(1) The diversion program shall accept only persons against whom charges have been filed and the court has found probable cause, but are not yet adjudicated. The prosecuting attorney may refer a person to diversion either before or after arraignment and shall notify in writing the diversion program and the court of his or her intention to refer the person to diversion. The

matter shall become confidential when notice is provided to the court. If a person is charged with a qualifying crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 7601(4)(A) and the crime is a misdemeanor, the prosecutor shall provide the person with the opportunity to participate in the court diversion program unless the prosecutor states on the record at arraignment or a subsequent hearing why a referral to the program would not serve the ends of justice. If the prosecuting attorney refers a case to diversion, the prosecuting attorney may release information to the victim upon a showing of legitimate need and subject to an appropriate protective agreement defining the purpose for which the information is being released and in all other respects maintaining the confidentiality of the information; otherwise files held by the court, the prosecuting attorney, and the law enforcement agency related to the charges shall be confidential and shall remain confidential unless:

- (A) the Board diversion program declines to accept the case;
- (B) the person declines to participate in diversion;
- (C) the Board diversion program accepts the case, but the person does not successfully complete diversion; or
- (D) the prosecuting attorney recalls the referral to diversion.

* * *

(7)(A) The Irrespective of whether a record was expunged, the adult court diversion program shall maintain sufficient records so that the reasons for success or failure of the program in particular cases and overall can be investigated by program staff. These records shall include a centralized statewide filing system that will include the following information about individuals who have successfully completed an adult court diversion program:

- (i) name and date of birth;
- (ii) offense charged and date of offense;
- (iii) place of residence;
- (iv) county where diversion process took place; and
- (v) date of completion of diversion process.

(B) These records shall not be available to anyone other than the participant and his or her attorney, State's Attorneys, the Attorney General, and directors of adult court diversion programs.

(C) Notwithstanding subdivision (B) of this subsection (e), the Attorney General shall, upon request, provide to a participant or his or her attorney sufficient documentation to show that the participant successfully completed diversion.

* * *

(g)(1) Within 30 days ~~of~~ after the two-year anniversary of a successful completion of adult diversion, the court shall provide notice to all parties of record of the court's intention to order the ~~sealing~~ expungement of all court files and records, law enforcement records other than entries in the adult court diversion program's centralized filing system, fingerprints, and photographs applicable to the proceeding. The court shall give the State's Attorney an opportunity for a hearing to contest the ~~sealing~~ expungement of the records. The court shall ~~seal~~ expunge the records if it finds:

(1)(A) two years have elapsed since the successful completion of the adult diversion program by the participant and the dismissal of the case by the State's Attorney;

(2)(B) the participant has not been convicted of a subsequent felony or misdemeanor during the two-year period, and no proceedings are pending seeking such conviction; and

(3)(C) rehabilitation of the participant has been attained to the satisfaction of the court.

(2) The court may expunge any records that were sealed pursuant to this subsection prior to July 1, 2018 unless the State's Attorney's office that prosecuted the case objects. Thirty days prior to expunging a record pursuant to this subdivision, the court shall provide written notice of its intent to expunge the record to the State's Attorney's office that prosecuted the case.

(3)(A) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been expunged pursuant to this section together with the expungement order. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the offense, his or her date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense that was the subject of the expungement.

(B) The special index and related documents specified in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) shall be confidential and shall be physically and electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that limits access to authorized persons.

(C) Inspection of the expungement order and the certificate may be permitted only upon petition by the person who is the subject of the case or by the court if the court finds that inspection of the documents is necessary to serve the interests of justice. The Chief Superior Judge may permit special access to the index and the documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to court records.

(D) The Court Administrator shall establish policies for implementing this subsection (g).

(h) ~~Upon~~ Except as otherwise provided in this section, upon the entry of an order ~~sealing such expunging~~ files and records under this section, the proceedings in the matter ~~under this section~~ shall be considered never to have occurred, all index references thereto shall be deleted, and the participant, the court, and law enforcement officers and departments shall reply to any request for information that no record exists with respect to such participant inquiry in any matter. Copies of the order shall be sent to each agency or official named therein.

(i) ~~Inspection of the files and records included in the order may thereafter be permitted by the court only upon petition by the participant who is the subject of such records, and only to those persons named therein. [Repealed.]~~

(j) The process of automatically ~~sealing~~ expunging records as provided in this section shall only apply to those persons who completed diversion on or after July 1, 2002. Any person who completed diversion prior to July 1, 2002 must apply to the court to have his or her records ~~sealed~~ expunged. Sealing Expungement shall occur if the requirements of subsection (g) of this section are met.

* * *

Sec. 12. 13 V.S.A. § 15 is added to read:

§ 15. USE OF VIDEO

(a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this section, proceedings governed by Rules 5 and 10 of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure and chapter 229 of this title shall be in person and on the record, and shall not be performed by video conferencing or other electronic means until the Defender General and the Executive Director of the Department of Sheriffs and State's Attorneys execute a joint certification that the video conferencing program in use by the court at the site where the proceeding occurs adequately ensures attorney-client confidentiality and the client's meaningful participation in the proceeding.

(b) A proceeding at which subsection (a) of this section applies may be performed by video conferencing if counsel for the defendant or a defendant not represented by counsel consents.

Sec. 13. 13 V.S.A. § 2301 is amended to read:

§ 2301. MURDER-DEGREES DEFINED

Murder committed by means of poison, or by lying in wait, or by ~~wilful~~ willful, deliberate, and premeditated killing, or committed in perpetrating or attempting to perpetrate arson, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, kidnapping, robbery, or burglary, shall be murder in the first degree. All other kinds of murder shall be murder in the second degree.

Sec. 14. EARNED GOOD TIME; REPORT

On or before November 15, 2018, the Commissioner of Corrections, in consultation with the Chief Superior Judge, the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the Department of Sheriffs and State's Attorneys, and the Defender General, shall report to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary, the Senate Committee on Institutions, and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions on the advisability and feasibility of reinstating a system of earned good time for persons under the supervision of the Department of Corrections.

Sec. 15. 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 miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 165.

An act relating to preemployment health screenings for hospital employees.

S. 203.

An act relating to systemic improvements of the mental health system.

H. 150.

An act relating to parole eligibility.

**Proposal of amendment to H. 150 to be offered by Senator Soucy before
Third Reading**

Senator Soucy moves that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 3 (EFFECTIVE DATE), by striking out the following: "2017" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 2018

Second Reading

Favorable

S. 282.

An act relating to health care providers participating in Vermont's Medicaid program.

Reported favorably by Senator McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 120.

An act relating to limiting corporate campaign contributions.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator White for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2941 is amended to read:

§ 2941. LIMITATIONS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

(a) In any election cycle:

(1)(A) A candidate for State Representative or for local office shall not accept contributions totaling more than:

- (i) \$1,000.00 from a single source; or
- (ii) \$1,000.00 from a political committee.

(B) Such a candidate may accept unlimited contributions from a political party.

(2)(A) A candidate for State Senator or for county office shall not accept contributions totaling more than:

- (i) \$1,500.00 from a single source; or
- (ii) \$1,500.00 from a political committee.

(B) Such a candidate may accept unlimited contributions from a political party.

(3)(A) A candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Accounts, or Attorney General shall not accept contributions totaling more than:

- (i) \$4,000.00 from a single source; or
- (ii) \$4,000.00 from a political committee.

(B) Such a candidate may accept unlimited contributions from a political party.

(4) A political committee shall not accept contributions totaling more than:

- (A) \$4,000.00 from a single source;
- (B) \$4,000.00 from a political committee; or
- (C) \$4,000.00 from a political party.

(5) A political party shall not accept contributions totaling more than:

- (A) \$10,000.00 from a single source;
- (B) \$10,000.00 from a political committee; or
- (C) \$60,000.00 from a political party.

(6) [Repealed.]

(b) A single source, political committee, or political party shall not contribute more to a candidate, political committee, or political party than the candidate, political committee, or political party is permitted to accept under this section.

(c)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, only an individual, a political committee, or a political party may make a contribution to a candidate or to a political party.

(2) A candidate or a political party shall not accept a contribution from any person other than those permitted to make such a contribution under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) For a candidate described in subdivisions (a)(1)-(3) of this section, an “election cycle” means:

(A) in the case of a general or local election, the period that begins 38 days after the previous general or local election for the office and ends 38 days after the general or local election for the office for which that person is a candidate, and includes any primary or run-off election related to that general or local election; or

(B) in the case of a special election, the period that begins on the date the special election for the office was ordered and ends 38 days after that special election, and includes any special primary or run-off election related to that special election.

(2) For a political committee, political party, or single source described in subdivisions (4)-(6) of subsection (a), an “election cycle” means a two-year general election cycle.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on December 14, 2018.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to the persons authorized to make contributions to candidates and political parties.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

S. 175.

An act relating to the wholesale importation of prescription drugs into Vermont, bulk purchasing, and the impact of prescription drug costs on health insurance premiums.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Ayer for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Wholesale Importation Program * * *

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 4 is added to read:

Subchapter 4. Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program

§ 4651. WHOLESAL IMPORTATION PROGRAM FOR PRESCRIPTION

DRUGS; DESIGN

(a) The Agency of Human Services, in consultation with interested stakeholders and appropriate federal officials, shall design a wholesale prescription drug importation program that complies with the applicable requirements of 21 U.S.C. § 384, including the requirements regarding safety and cost savings. The program design shall:

(1) designate a State agency that shall either become a licensed drug wholesaler or contract with a licensed drug wholesaler in order to seek federal certification and approval to import safe prescription drugs and provide significant prescription drug cost savings to Vermont consumers;

(2) use Canadian prescription drug suppliers regulated under the laws of Canada or of one or more Canadian provinces, or both;

(3) ensure that only prescription drugs meeting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s safety, effectiveness, and other standards shall be imported by or on behalf of the State;

(4) import only those prescription drugs expected to generate substantial savings for Vermont consumers;

(5) ensure that the program complies with the tracking and tracing requirements of 21 U.S.C. §§ 360eee and 360eee-1 to the extent feasible and practical prior to imported drugs coming into the possession of the State wholesaler and that it complies fully after imported drugs are in the possession of the State wholesaler;

(6) prohibit the distribution, dispensing, or sale of imported products outside Vermont's borders;

(7) establish a fee on each prescription or establish another financing mechanism to ensure that the program is funded adequately in a manner that does not jeopardize significant consumer savings; and

(8) include a robust audit function.

(b) On or before January 1, 2019, the Secretary of Human Services shall submit the proposed design for a wholesale prescription drug importation program to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance.

§ 4652. MONITORING FOR ANTICOMPETITIVE BEHAVIOR

The Agency of Human Services shall consult with the Office of the Attorney General to identify the potential, and to monitor, for anticompetitive behavior in industries that would be affected by a wholesale prescription drug importation program.

§ 4653. FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

(a) On or before July 1, 2019, the Agency of Human Services shall submit a formal request to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for certification of the State's wholesale prescription drug importation program.

(b) The Agency of Human Services shall seek the appropriate federal approvals, waivers, exemptions, or agreements, or a combination thereof, as needed to enable all covered entities enrolled in or eligible for the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to participate in the State's wholesale prescription drug importation program to the fullest extent possible without jeopardizing their eligibility for the 340B Program.

§ 4654. IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS

Upon certification and approval by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Agency of Human Services shall begin implementation of the wholesale prescription drug importation program and

shall begin operating the program within six months following the date of the Secretary's approval. As part of the implementation process, the Agency of Human Services shall, in accordance with State procurement and contract laws, rules, and procedures as appropriate:

(1) become licensed as a wholesaler or enter into a contract with a Vermont-licensed wholesaler;

(2) contract with one or more Vermont-licensed distributors;

(3) contract with one or more licensed and regulated Canadian suppliers;

(4) engage with health insurance plans, employers, pharmacies, health care providers, and consumers;

(5) develop a registration process for health insurance plans, pharmacies, and prescription drug-administering health care providers who are willing to participate in the program;

(6) create a publicly available source for listing the prices of imported prescription drug products that shall be made available to all participating entities and consumers;

(7) create an outreach and marketing plan to generate program awareness;

(8) starting in the weeks before the program becomes operational, create and staff a hotline to answer questions and address the needs of consumers, employers, health insurance plans, pharmacies, health care providers, and other affected sectors;

(9) establish the audit function and a two-year audit work-plan cycle; and

(10) conduct any other activities that the Agency determines to be important for successful implementation of the program.

§ 4655. ANNUAL REPORTING

(a) Annually on or before January 15, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance regarding the operation of the wholesale prescription drug importation program during the previous calendar year, including:

(1) which prescription drugs were included in the wholesale importation program;

(2) the number of participating pharmacies, health care providers, and health insurance plans;

- (3) the number of prescriptions dispensed through the program;
 - (4) the estimated savings to consumers, health plans, employers, and the State during the previous calendar year and to date;
 - (5) information regarding implementation of the audit plan and audit findings; and
 - (6) any other information the Secretary of Human Services deems relevant.
- (b) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

* * * Bulk Purchasing of Prescription Drugs * * *

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 5 is added to read:

Subchapter 5. Bulk Purchasing

§ 4671. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

- (1) “Pharmacy benefit manager” shall have the same meaning as in section 9471 of this title.
- (2) “Prescription drug claims processor” means a person who does one or more of the following:
 - (A) processes and pays prescription drug claims;
 - (B) adjudicates pharmacy claims;
 - (C) transmits prescription drug prices and claims data between pharmacies and the bulk purchasing program established in this subchapter; or
 - (D) processes payments to pharmacies related to the bulk purchasing program established in this subchapter.
- (3) “Wholesale drug distributor” shall have the same meaning as in 26 V.S.A. § 2022.

§ 4672. PRESCRIPTION DRUG BULK PURCHASING PROGRAM

- (a) Purposes. There is established a bulk purchasing program for prescription drugs in the Department of Health for the purposes of:
 - (1) purchasing prescription drugs or reimbursing pharmacies for prescription drugs, or both, in order to receive discounted prices and rebates;
 - (2) making prescription drugs available at the lowest possible cost to participants in the program; and

(3) maximizing the purchasing power of prescription drug consumers in this State in order to negotiate the lowest possible prices for these consumers.

(b) Administration. The Department of Health shall administer the program, with the assistance of a wholesale drug distributor if the Department deems it appropriate, by:

(1) negotiating price discounts and rebates on prescription drugs with prescription drug manufacturers;

(2) purchasing prescription drugs on behalf of participants in the program;

(3) determining program prices and reimbursing pharmacies for prescription drugs;

(4) developing a system for allocating and distributing among program participants the program's operational costs and any rebates obtained;

(5) cooperating with other states or regional consortia in the bulk purchase of prescription drugs; and

(6) establishing terms and conditions for pharmacies to enroll in the program.

(c) Contracts. The Department may enter into contracts with one or more of the following:

(1) pharmacy benefit managers;

(2) prescription drug claims processors; or

(3) wholesale drug distributors.

(d) Application process.

(1) The Department shall create and distribute an application for enrollment in the program.

(2) The Department may charge a participant a nominal fee to:

(A) process the application for enrollment in the program; and

(B) produce and distribute identification cards for the program.

(e) Program prices.

(1) The Department shall calculate and transmit to each enrolled pharmacy the program price for each prescription drug included in the program.

(2) An enrolled pharmacy shall charge a program participant the program price for a prescription drug if the participant presents a valid program identification card.

(f) Enrollment.

(1) Subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department shall automatically enroll in the program all consumers receiving prescription drugs through any other State agency or department.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, if another State agency or department demonstrates to the Department that program enrollment would result in a net increase in costs to either the State or the consumers, the other agency or department shall be exempt from automatic enrollment in the bulk purchasing program established in this subchapter.

§ 4673. FEDERAL WAIVER

If a federal waiver is necessary to enable the participation of any Vermont consumer in the bulk purchasing program established in this subchapter, the Department shall take all necessary steps to obtain the waiver, and any other State agency or department that provides prescription drugs to Vermont consumers shall cooperate with the Department in obtaining the waiver.

§ 4674. RULES

The Department shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as needed to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. At a minimum, the rules shall address:

(1) the enrollment of pharmacies in the program; and

(2) the issuance of prescription drug identification cards to participants in the program.

§ 4675. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(a) Annually on or before January 15, the Department of Health shall provide a report on the progress of program implementation to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance.

(b) Each report shall include the following information:

(1) the number of participants in the program during the previous calendar year and the number of participants the Department anticipates for the upcoming calendar year;

(2) the number of participants for whom the program has purchased prescription drugs during the previous calendar year and to date, as well as the number of participants for whom the program expects to purchase prescription drugs during the upcoming calendar year;

(3) the total and average individual savings on prescription drug prices for participants for the previous calendar year and to date, as well as the projected total and average individual savings on prescription drug prices for participants during the upcoming calendar year;

(4) progress toward expanding the program; and

(5) any recommendations for legislation that the Department feels are necessary to implement the program further and to expand program participation.

* * * Health Insurance Plan Reporting * * *

Sec. 3. 8 V.S.A. § 4062 is amended to read:

§ 4062. FILING AND APPROVAL OF POLICY FORMS AND PREMIUMS

* * *

(b)(1) In conjunction with a rate filing required by subsection (a) of this section, an insurer shall file a plain language summary of the proposed rate. All summaries shall include a brief justification of any rate increase requested, the information that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) requires for rate increases over 10 percent, and any other information required by the Board. The plain language summary shall be in the format required by the Secretary of HHS pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, Public Law 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-152, and shall include notification of the public comment period established in subsection (c) of this section. In addition, the insurer shall post the summaries on its website.

(2)(A) In conjunction with a rate filing required by subsection (a) of this section, an insurer shall disclose to the Board:

(i) for all covered prescription drugs, including generic drugs, brand-name drugs excluding specialty drugs, and specialty drugs dispensed at a pharmacy, network pharmacy, or mail-order pharmacy for outpatient use:

(I) the percentage of the premium rate attributable to prescription drug costs for the prior year for each category of prescription drugs;

(II) the year-over-year increase or decrease, expressed as a percentage, in per-member, per-month total health plan spending on each category of prescription drugs; and

(III) the year-over-year increase or decrease in per-member, per-month costs for prescription drugs compared to other components of the premium rate; and

(ii) the specialty tier formulary list.

(B) The insurer shall provide, if available, the percentage of the premium rate attributable to prescription drugs administered by a health care provider in an outpatient setting that are part of the medical benefit as separate from the pharmacy benefit.

(C) The insurer shall include information on its use of a pharmacy benefit manager, if any, including which components of the prescription drug coverage described in subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (2) are managed by the pharmacy benefit manager, as well as the name of the pharmacy benefit manager or managers used.

(c)(1) The Board shall provide information to the public on the Board's website about the public availability of the filings and summaries required under this section.

~~(2)(A) Beginning no later than January 1, 2014, the~~ The Board shall post the rate filings pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and summaries pursuant to subsection (b) of this section on the Board's website within five calendar days of following filing. The Board shall also establish a mechanism by which members of the public may request to be notified automatically each time a proposed rate is filed with the Board.

* * *

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4636 is added to read:

§ 4636. IMPACT OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS ON HEALTH
INSURANCE PREMIUMS; REPORT

(a) Each health insurer with more than 200 covered lives in this State shall report to the Green Mountain Care Board, for all covered prescription drugs, including generic drugs, brand-name drugs, and specialty drugs provided in an outpatient setting or sold in a retail setting:

(1) the 25 most frequently prescribed drugs and the average wholesale price for each drug;

(2) the 25 most costly drugs by total plan spending and the average wholesale price for each drug; and

(3) the 25 drugs with the highest year-over-year price increases and the average wholesale price for each drug.

(b) The Green Mountain Care Board shall compile the information reported pursuant to subsection (a) of this section into a consumer-friendly report that demonstrates the overall impact of drug costs on health insurance premiums. The data in the report shall be aggregated and shall not reveal information as specific to a particular health benefit plan.

(c) The Board shall publish the report required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section on its website on or before January 1 of each year. Information provided to the Board pursuant to this section is exempt from inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential except to the extent it is aggregated and included in the report described in subsection (b) of this section.

* * * Notice of New High-Cost Drugs * * *

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4637 is added to read:

§ 4637. NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF NEW HIGH-COST
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Manufacturer” shall have the same meaning as “pharmaceutical manufacturer” in section 4631a of this title.

(2) “Prescription drug” means a drug as defined in 21 U.S.C. § 321.

(b) A prescription drug manufacturer shall notify the Office of the Attorney General in writing if it is introducing a new prescription drug to market at a wholesale acquisition cost that exceeds the threshold set for a specialty drug under the Medicare Part D program. The manufacturer shall provide the written notice within three calendar days following the release of the drug in the commercial market. A manufacturer may make the notification pending approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) if commercial availability is expected within three calendar days following the approval.

(c) Not later than 30 calendar days following notification pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the manufacturer shall provide all of the following information to the Office of the Attorney General in a format that the Office prescribes:

(1) a description of the marketing and pricing plans used in the launch of the new drug in the United States and internationally;

(2) the estimated volume of patients who may be prescribed the drug;

(3) whether the drug was granted breakthrough therapy designation or priority review by the FDA prior to final approval; and

(4) the date and price of acquisition if the drug was not developed by the manufacturer.

(d) The manufacturer may limit the information reported pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to that which is otherwise in the public domain or publicly available.

(e) The Office of the Attorney General shall publish on its website at least quarterly the information reported to it pursuant to this section. The information shall be published in a manner that identifies the information that is disclosed on a per-drug basis and shall not be aggregated in a manner that would not allow identification of the drug.

(f) The Attorney General may bring an action in the Civil Division of the Superior Court, Washington County for injunctive relief, costs, and attorney's fees and to impose on a manufacturer that fails to provide the information required by subsection (c) of this section a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00 per day for every day after the notification period described in subsection (b) of this section that the required information is not reported. In any action brought pursuant to this section, the Attorney General shall have the same authority to investigate and to obtain remedies as if the action were brought under the Consumer Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63.

* * * Disclosures by Pharmacists * * *

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 9473(b) is amended to read:

(b) A pharmacy benefit manager or other entity paying pharmacy claims shall not:

(1) impose a higher co-payment for a prescription drug than the co-payment applicable to the type of drug purchased under the insured's health plan;

(2) impose a higher co-payment for a prescription drug than the maximum allowable cost for the drug; or

(3) require a pharmacy to pass through any portion of the insured's co-payment to the pharmacy benefit manager or other payer;

(4) prohibit or penalize a pharmacy or pharmacist for providing information to an insured regarding the insured's cost-sharing amount for a prescription drug; or

(5) prohibit or penalize a pharmacy or pharmacist for the pharmacist or other pharmacy employee disclosing to an insured the cash price for a prescription drug or selling a lower cost drug to the insured if one is available.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 6 (18 V.S.A. § 9473; disclosures by pharmacists) shall take effect on July 1, 2018 and shall apply to all contracts taking effect on or after that date.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare and when so amended ought to pass.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Ashe for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare with the following amendment thereto:

By adding a new section and reader assistance heading to be Sec. 2a to read as follows:

* * * Condition for Implementation of Secs. 1 and 2 * * *

Sec. 2a. WHOLESALE IMPORTATION AND BULK PURCHASING PROGRAMS; CONDITION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Agency of Human Services and the Department of Health shall be required to design and commence implementation of the wholesale prescription drug importation program described in Sec. 1 of this act and the bulk purchasing program described in Sec. 2 of this act only to the extent that funds are appropriated for either or both of these purposes in the budget bill enacted by the General Assembly for fiscal year 2019.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

S. 216.

An act relating to the administration of Vermont's Medical Marijuana Registry.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator White for the Committee on Judiciary.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4230e is amended to read:

§ 4230e. CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA BY A PERSON 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

(a)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person 21 years of age or older who cultivates ~~no~~ not more than two mature marijuana plants and four immature marijuana plants shall not be penalized or sanctioned in any manner by the State or any of its political subdivisions or denied any right or privilege under State law.

(2)(A) Each dwelling unit shall be limited to two mature marijuana plants and four immature marijuana plants regardless of how many persons 21 years of age or older reside in the dwelling unit.

(B) A person may not cultivate marijuana pursuant to this section if a registered medical marijuana patient or caregiver cultivates marijuana in the same dwelling unit pursuant to chapter 86 of this title.

(C) As used in this section, “dwelling unit” means a building or the part of a building that is used as a primary home, residence, or sleeping place by one or more persons who maintain a household.

(3) Any marijuana harvested from the plants allowed pursuant to this subsection shall not count toward the one-ounce possession limit in section 4230a of this title, provided it is stored in an indoor facility on the property where the marijuana was cultivated and reasonable precautions are taken to prevent unauthorized access to the marijuana.

(4) Cultivation in excess of the limits provided in this subsection shall be punished in accordance with section 4230 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4230f(f) is amended to read:

(f) This section shall not apply to a dispensary that lawfully provides marijuana to a registered patient or caregiver or a registered caregiver who provides marijuana to a registered patient pursuant to chapter 86 of this title.

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4472 is amended to read:

§ 4472. DEFINITIONS

* * *

(4) “Debilitating medical condition” means:

(A) cancer, multiple sclerosis, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, glaucoma, Crohn’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, or the treatment of these conditions, if the disease or the treatment results in severe, persistent, and intractable symptoms;

(B) post-traumatic stress disorder, provided the Department confirms the applicant is undergoing psychotherapy or counseling with a licensed mental health care provider; or

~~(C) a disease or medical condition or its treatment that is chronic, debilitating, and produces one or more of the following intractable symptoms: cachexia or wasting syndrome; chronic pain; severe nausea; or seizures~~ another

disease, condition, or treatment as determined in writing by a qualifying patient's health care professional as defined in subdivision (7) of this section.

* * *

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4474c is amended to read:

§ 4474c. PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, AND LIMITATIONS
REGARDING THE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR SYMPTOM
RELIEF

* * *

~~(c) A registered patient or registered caregiver who elects to grow marijuana to be used for symptom relief by the patient may do so only if the marijuana is cultivated in a single, secure indoor facility. Personal cultivation of marijuana by a patient or caregiver on behalf of a patient only shall occur:~~

(1) on property lawfully in possession of the cultivator or with the written consent of the person in lawful possession of the property; and

(2) in an enclosure that is screened from public view and is secure so that access is limited to the cultivator and persons 21 years of age or older who have permission from the cultivator.

~~(d) A registered patient or registered caregiver may not transport marijuana in public unless it is secured in a locked container. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

(g) The use of marijuana by a registered patient shall not be the sole factor disqualifying the patient from any needed medical procedure or treatment, including organ and tissue transplants.

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4474e is amended to read:

§ 4474e. DISPENSARIES; CONDITIONS OF OPERATION

(a) A dispensary registered under this section may:

(1) Acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, test, transfer, transport, supply, sell, and dispense marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana-related supplies and educational materials for or to a registered patient who has designated it as his or her dispensary and to his or her registered caregiver for the registered patient's use for symptom relief.

* * *

(3)(A) Cultivate and possess at any one time up to 28 mature marijuana plants, 98 immature marijuana plants, and 28 ounces of usable marijuana. However, if a dispensary is designated by more than 14 registered patients, the dispensary may cultivate and possess at any one time ~~two~~ three mature

marijuana plants, seven immature plants, and four ounces of usable marijuana for every registered patient for which the dispensary serves as the designated dispensary.

* * *

(d)(1) A dispensary shall implement appropriate security measures to deter and prevent the unauthorized entrance into areas containing marijuana and the theft of marijuana and shall ensure that each location has an operational security alarm system. All cultivation of marijuana shall take place in a secure, locked facility which is either indoors or outdoors, but not visible to the public and that can only be accessed by the owners, principals, financiers, and employees of the dispensary who have valid Registry identification cards. An outdoor facility is not required to have a roof, provided all other requirements are met. The Department shall perform an annual on-site assessment of each dispensary and may perform on-site assessments of a dispensary without limitation for the purpose of determining compliance with this subchapter and any rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter and may enter a dispensary at any time for such purpose. During an inspection, the Department may review the dispensary's confidential records, including its dispensing records, which shall track transactions according to registered patients' Registry identification numbers to protect their confidentiality.

(2)(A) A registered patient or registered caregiver may obtain marijuana from the dispensary by appointment only.

(B) A dispensary may deliver marijuana to a registered patient or registered caregiver. The marijuana shall be transported in a locked container.

(3) The operating documents of a dispensary shall include procedures for the oversight of the dispensary and procedures to ensure accurate record-keeping.

(4) A dispensary shall submit the results of a financial audit to the Department of Public Safety ~~no~~ not later than ~~60~~ 90 days after the end of the dispensary's first fiscal year, and every other year thereafter. The audit shall be conducted by an independent certified public accountant, and the costs of any such audit shall be borne by the dispensary. The Department may also periodically require, within its discretion, the audit of a dispensary's financial records by the Department.

* * *

(n) Nothing in this subchapter shall prevent a dispensary from acquiring, possessing, cultivating, manufacturing, testing, transferring, transporting, supplying, selling, and dispensing hemp and hemp-infused products ~~for~~ symptom relief. "Hemp" shall have the same meaning as provided in 6 V.S.A.

§ 562. A dispensary shall not be required to comply with the provisions of 6 V.S.A. chapter 34.

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 4474g is amended to read:

§ 4474g. DISPENSARY REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARD;
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

(a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the~~ The Department shall issue each owner, principal, financier, and employee of a dispensary a Registry identification card or renewal card within 30 days ~~of~~ after receipt of the person's name, address, and date of birth and a fee of \$50.00. The fee shall be paid by the dispensary and the cost shall not be passed on to an owner, principal, financier, or employee. ~~A~~ Except as provided by subdivision (b)(2) of this section, a person shall not serve as an owner, principal, financier, or employee of a dispensary until that person has received a Registry identification card issued under this section. Each card shall specify whether the cardholder is an owner, principal, financier, or employee of a dispensary and shall contain the following:

- (1) the name, address, and date of birth of the person;
- (2) the legal name of the dispensary with which the person is affiliated;
- (3) a random identification number that is unique to the person;
- (4) the date of issuance and the expiration date of the Registry identification card; and
- (5) a photograph of the person.

(b)(1) Prior to acting on an application for a Registry identification card, the Department shall obtain with respect to the applicant a Vermont criminal history record, an out-of-state criminal history record, and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Each applicant shall consent to the release of criminal history records to the Department on forms developed by the Vermont Crime Information Center.

(2) Once a Registry card application has been submitted, a person may serve as an owner, principal, financier, or employee of a dispensary pending the background check, provided the person is supervised in his or her duties by someone who is a cardholder. The Department shall issue a temporary permit to the person for this purpose, which shall expire upon the issuance of the Registry card or disqualification of the person in accordance with this section.

* * *

Sec. 7. 18 V.S.A. § 4474m is amended to read:

§ 4474m. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL AND SAFETY INFORMATION

The Department of Public Safety shall provide educational and safety information developed by the Vermont Department of Health, in consultation with dispensaries, to each registered patient upon registration pursuant to section 4473 of this title, and to each registered caregiver upon registration pursuant to section 4474 of this title.

Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 4474n is added to read:

§ 4474n. TESTING BY THE AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall establish a cannabis quality control program for the following purposes:

(1) to develop potency and contaminant testing protocols for hemp, hemp-infused products, marijuana, and marijuana-infused products;

(2) to verify cannabinoid label guarantees of hemp, hemp-infused products, marijuana, and marijuana-infused products;

(3) to test for pesticides, solvents, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and bacterial and fungal contaminants in hemp, hemp-infused products, marijuana, and marijuana-infused products; and

(4) to certify testing laboratories that can offer the services in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this section.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 3-8 shall take effect July 1, 2018.

(b) Secs. 1 and 2 shall take effect July 2, 2018.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

Amendment to S. 216 to be offered by Senators Ingram, Cummings and Lyons

Senators Ingram, Cummings and Lyons move that the bill be amended as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 3 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

Second: In Sec. 9, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a) This section and Secs. 4-8 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

S. 221.

An act relating to establishing extreme risk protection orders.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sears for the Committee on Judiciary.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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 clear and convincing 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 intended to place 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 clear and convincing evidence that at the time of the hearing 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 60 days. 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 filed.

(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.

(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 intended to place 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 clear and convincing evidence.

(2) The court shall grant the motion and terminate the extreme risk protection order unless it finds by clear and convincing 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 60 days. 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 clear and convincing evidence.

(2) The court shall grant the motion and renew the extreme risk protection order for an additional period of up to 60 days if it finds by clear and convincing 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.

(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.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 241.

An act relating to the makeup and duties of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator White for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 909 is amended to read:

§ 909. EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) The Commissioner shall establish an advisory committee to advise on matters relating to the delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) in Vermont.

(b) ~~The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee shall be chaired by the Commissioner or his or her designee and shall include the following 14 other members:~~

~~(1) Four representatives of EMS districts. The representatives shall be selected by the EMS districts in four regions of the State. Those four regions shall correspond with the geographic lines used by the public safety districts pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 5. For purposes of this subdivision, an EMS district located in more than one public safety district shall be deemed to be located in the public safety district in which it serves the greatest number of people. One representative from each EMS district in the State, each representative being appointed by the EMS Board in his or her district.~~

~~(2) A representative from the Vermont Ambulance Association or designee.~~

~~(3) A representative from the initiative for rural emergency medical services Initiative for Rural Emergency Medical Services program at the University of Vermont or designee.~~

~~(4) A representative from the Professional Firefighters of Vermont or designee.~~

~~(5) A representative from the Vermont Career Fire Chiefs Association or designee.~~

~~(6) A representative from the Vermont State Firefighters' Association or designee.~~

~~(7) An emergency department director of a Vermont hospital appointed by the Vermont Association of Emergency Department Directors or designee.~~

~~(8) An emergency department nurse manager or emergency department director of a Vermont hospital appointed by the Vermont Association of Emergency Department Nurse Managers or designee Hospitals and Health Systems.~~

~~(9) A representative from the Vermont State Firefighters' Association who serves on a first response or FAST squad.~~

~~(10) A representative from the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems or designee.~~

(8) The Commissioner or designee.

~~(11)~~(9) A local government member not affiliated with emergency medical services, firefighter services, or hospital services, appointed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

(c) The Committee shall select from among its members a chair who is not an employee of the State.

~~(d)~~ The Committee shall meet not less than quarterly ~~in the first year and not less than twice annually each subsequent year~~ and may be convened at any time by the ~~Commissioner or his or her designee~~ Chair or at the request of ~~seven~~ 11 Committee members. Not more than two meetings each year shall be held in the same EMS district. One meeting each year shall be held at a Vermont EMS conference.

~~(d)~~(e) Beginning on January 1, 2014 ~~and for the ensuing two years 2019~~, the Committee shall report annually on the emergency medical services system to the House Committees on Government Operations, on Commerce and Economic Development, and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Government Operations, on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and on Health and Welfare. The Committee's ~~initial and ensuing~~ reports shall include ~~each EMS district's response times to 911 emergencies in the previous year based on information collected from the Vermont Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services and recommendations information~~ on the following:

~~(1)~~ whether Vermont EMS districts should be consolidated such as along the geographic lines used by the four public safety districts established under 20 V.S.A. § 5;

~~(2)~~(1) whether every Vermont municipality should be required to have in effect an emergency medical services plan providing for timely and competent emergency responses; ~~and~~

~~(3)~~(2) whether the State should establish directives addressing when an agency can respond to a nonemergency request for transportation of a patient if doing so will leave the service area unattended or unable to respond to an emergency call in a timely fashion;

(3) how the EMS system is functioning statewide and the current state of recruitment and workforce development;

(4) each EMS district's response times to 911 emergencies in the previous year, based on information collected from the Vermont Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services;

(5) funding mechanisms and funding gaps for EMS personnel and providers across the State, including for the funding of infrastructure, equipment, and operations and costs associated with initial and continuing training, licensure, and credentialing of personnel;

(6) the nature and costs of dispatch services for EMS providers throughout the State and suggestions for improvement;

(7) legal, financial, or other limitations on the ability of EMS personnel with various levels of training and licensure to engage in lifesaving or health-preserving procedures;

(8) how the current system of preparing and licensing EMS personnel could be improved, including the role of Vermont Technical College's EMS program; whether the State should create an EMS academy; and how such an EMS academy should be structured;

(9) how EMS instructor training and licensing could be improved; and

(10) the impact of the State's credentialing requirements for EMS personnel on EMS providers.

Sec. 2. 2019 MEETINGS AND ORGANIZATION

Notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 909(d), the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee shall meet at least twice between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018. The Commissioner or designee shall call the first such meeting, at which time a chair shall be selected pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 909(c).

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 272.

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles and motorboats.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Westman for the Committee on Transportation.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Special Plates and Placards for Persons with Disabilities * * *

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 304a(b) is amended to read:

(b) Special registration plates or removable windshield placards, or both, shall be issued by the Vermont Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The placard shall be issued without a fee to a person who is blind or has an ambulatory disability. One set of plates shall be issued without additional fees for a vehicle registered or leased to a person who is blind or has an ambulatory disability or to a parent or guardian of a person with a permanent disability. The Commissioner shall issue these placards or plates under rules adopted by

him or her after proper application has been made to the Commissioner by any person residing within the State of Vermont. Application forms shall be available on request at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

* * *

* * * Eliminating Requirements to Return License Plates * * *

Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 326 is amended to read:

§ 326. REFUND UPON LOSS OF VEHICLE

The Commissioner may cancel the registration of a motor vehicle when the owner thereof proves to his or her satisfaction that it has been totally destroyed by fire, or, through accident or wear, has become wholly unfit for use and has been dismantled. ~~Upon the cancellation of such~~ After the Commissioner cancels the registration and the return owner returns to the Commissioner of either the registration certificate, or the number plates and the validation sticker (if issued for that year), the Commissioner shall certify to the Commissioner of Finance and Management the fact of ~~such~~ the cancellation, giving the name of the owner of ~~such~~ the motor vehicle, his or her address, the amount of the registration fee paid, and the date of ~~such~~ cancellation. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue his or her warrant in favor of the owner for such percent of the registration fee paid as the unexpired term of the registration bears to the entire registration period, but in no case shall the Commissioner retain less than \$5.00 of the fee paid.

Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 327 is amended to read:

§ 327. REFUND WHEN PLATES NOT USED

Subject to the conditions set forth in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this section, the Commissioner may cancel the registration of a motor vehicle, snowmobile, or ~~motor boat~~ motorboat when the owner returns to the Commissioner either the number plates, if any, and or the registration certificate to the Commissioner. Upon cancellation of the registration, the Commissioner shall notify the Commissioner of Finance and Management, who shall issue a refund as follows:

(1) For registrations cancelled prior to the beginning of the registration period, the refund is the full amount of the fee paid, less a ~~fee~~ charge of \$5.00.

(2) For registrations cancelled within 30 days of the date of issue, the refund is the full amount of the fee paid, less a charge of \$5.00. The owner of a motor vehicle must prove to the Commissioner's satisfaction that the number plates have not been used or attached to a motor vehicle.

(3) For registrations cancelled prior to the beginning of the second year of a two-year registration period, the refund is one-half of the full amount of the two-year fee paid, less a charge of \$5.00.

* * * Veterans; Fee Exemptions * * *

Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 378 is amended to read:

§ 378. VETERANS' EXEMPTIONS

No fees shall be charged an honorably discharged veterans ~~veterans~~ veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, ~~who are residents~~ is a resident of the State of Vermont for the registration of a motor vehicle ~~granted that the veteran by the Veterans' Administration has acquired with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,~~ granted that the veteran by the Veterans' Administration has acquired with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or for the registration of a motor vehicle owned by him or her during his or her lifetime obtained as a replacement thereof, when his or her application is accompanied by a certificate copy of an approved VA Form 21-4502 issued by the Veterans' Administration center U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certifying him or her to be entitled to such exemption the financial assistance.

Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 609 is amended to read:

§ 609. VETERANS' EXEMPTION

No fees shall be charged an honorably discharged veterans ~~veterans~~ veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, ~~who are residents~~ is a resident of the State of Vermont, for a license to operate a motor vehicle, when the veteran has ~~received~~ acquired a motor vehicle with financial assistance from the Veterans' Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and he or she is otherwise eligible to be granted ~~such the~~ the license, and when his or her application is accompanied by a certificate copy of an approved VA Form 21-4502 issued by the Veterans' Administration center U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certifying him or her to be entitled to such exemption the financial assistance.

Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 2002(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Commissioner shall be paid the following fees:

(1) for any certificate of title, including a salvage certificate of title, or an exempt vehicle title, \$35.00;

* * *

(11) for a certificate of title for a motor vehicle ~~granted~~ acquired by a veteran by with financial assistance from the Veterans' Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and exempt from registration fees pursuant to section 378 of this title, no fee;

* * *

Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 8911 is amended to read:

§ 8911. EXCEPTIONS

The tax imposed by this chapter shall not apply to:

* * *

(14) A motor vehicle ~~granted~~ acquired by a veteran by with financial assistance from the Veterans' Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or a vehicle obtained as a replacement to one ~~granted~~ acquired with such assistance, when accompanied by a ~~certificate~~ copy of an approved VA Form 21-4502 issued by the Veterans' Administration Center U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certifying the veteran to be entitled to the ~~exemption~~ financial assistance.

* * *

* * * Restoration of Driving Privileges Under Total Abstinence Program * * *

Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 1209a(b) is amended to read:

(b) Abstinence.

(1)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, a person whose license or privilege to operate has been suspended or revoked for life under this subchapter may apply to the ~~Driver Rehabilitation School Director~~ and to the Commissioner for reinstatement of his or her driving privilege. The person shall have completed three years of total abstinence from consumption of alcohol ~~or~~ and nonprescription regulated drugs, ~~or both~~. The use of a regulated drug in accordance with a valid prescription shall not disqualify an applicant for reinstatement of his or her driving privileges unless the applicant used the regulated drug in a manner inconsistent with the prescription label.

(B) The beginning date for the period of abstinence shall be ~~no sooner~~ not earlier than the effective date of the suspension or revocation from which the person is requesting reinstatement and shall not include any period during which the person is serving a sentence of incarceration to include furlough. The application shall include the applicant's authorization for a urinalysis examination, or another examination if it is approved as a preliminary screening test under this subchapter, to be conducted prior to reinstatement under this subdivision. The application to the Commissioner shall be accompanied by a fee of \$500.00. The Commissioner shall have the discretion to waive the application fee if the Commissioner determines that payment of the fee would present a hardship to the applicant.

(2) If the Commissioner or a medical review board convened by the Commissioner is satisfied by a preponderance of the evidence that the applicant has abstained for the required number of years immediately preceding the application ~~and hearing~~, has successfully completed a therapy

program as required under this section, and has operated under a valid ignition interlock RDL or under an ignition interlock certificate for at least three years following the suspension or revocation, and the person appreciates provides a written acknowledgment that he or she cannot drink any amount of alcohol and drive safely at all and cannot consume nonprescription regulated drugs under any circumstances, the person's license or privilege to operate shall be reinstated immediately, subject to the condition that the person's suspension or revocation will be put back in effect in the event any further investigation reveals a return to the consumption of alcohol or drugs and to such additional conditions as the Commissioner may impose. The requirement to operate under an ignition interlock RDL or ignition interlock certificate shall not apply if the person is exempt under subdivision (a)(4) of this section.

* * *

(4) If the Commissioner finds that a person reinstated under this subsection ~~was is~~ suspended pursuant to section 1205 of this title, ~~or was is~~ convicted of a violation of section 1201 of this title subsequent to reinstatement under this subsection, the person shall be conclusively presumed to be in violation of the conditions of his or her reinstatement.

(5) A person shall be eligible for reinstatement under this subsection only once following a suspension or revocation for life.

* * *

* * * Means of Transmitting Fuel Tax Payments * * *

Sec. 9. 23 V.S.A. § 3015 is amended to read:

§ 3015. COMPUTATION AND PAYMENT OF TAX

Each report required under section 3014 of this title from licensed distributors, dealers, or users shall be accompanied by evidence of an electronic funds transfer payment or a remittance payable to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the amount of tax due, which shall be computed and transmitted in the following manner:

* * *

(3)(A) Distributors and dealers with a tax liability of more than \$25,000.00 filing a report required under subsection 3014(a) of this title shall transmit payment of taxes due to the Department of Motor Vehicles by means of an electronic funds transfer.

(B) Distributors and dealers with a tax liability of \$25,000.00 or less filing a report required under subsection 3014(a) of this title, and users filing a report required under subsection 3014(b) of this title, shall transmit payment of taxes due to the Department of Motor Vehicles by means of an electronic funds

transfer payment or by a remittance through the U.S. mail. If a remittance ~~to cover payment of taxes due as shown by a report required by this chapter~~ is sent through the U.S. mail properly addressed to the Department of Motor Vehicles, it shall be deemed received on the date shown by the postmark on the envelope containing the report only for purposes of avoiding penalty and interest. In the event a mailing date is affixed to the envelope by a machine owned or under the control of the person submitting the report, and the U.S. Post Office has corrected or changed the date stamped thereon by causing the official U.S. Post Office postmark to also be imprinted on the envelope, the date shown by the official Post Office postmark shall be the accepted date if different from the original postmark.

* * *

Sec. 10. 23 V.S.A. § 3015 is amended to read:

§ 3015. COMPUTATION AND PAYMENT OF TAX

Each report required under section 3014 of this title from licensed distributors, dealers, or users shall be accompanied by evidence of an electronic funds transfer payment or a remittance payable to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the amount of tax due, which shall be computed and transmitted in the following manner:

* * *

(3)(A) Distributors and dealers ~~with a tax liability of more than \$25,000.00~~ filing a report required under subsection 3014(a) of this title shall transmit payment of taxes due to the Department of Motor Vehicles by means of an electronic funds transfer.

(B) ~~Distributors and dealers with a tax liability of \$25,000.00 or less filing a report required under subsection 3014(a), of this title and users~~ Users filing a report required under subsection 3014(b) of this title, shall transmit payment of taxes due to the Department of Motor Vehicles by means of an electronic funds transfer payment or by a remittance through the U.S. mail. If a remittance is sent through the U.S. mail properly addressed to the Department of Motor Vehicles, it shall be deemed received on the date shown by the postmark on the envelope containing the report only for purposes of avoiding penalty and interest. In the event a mailing date is affixed to the envelope by a machine owned or under the control of the person submitting the report and the U.S. Post Office has corrected or changed the date stamped thereon by causing the official U.S. Post Office postmark to also be imprinted on the envelope, the date shown by the official Post Office postmark shall be the accepted date if different from the original postmark.

* * *

Sec. 11. 23 V.S.A. § 3106(b) is amended to read:

~~(b) If a remittance to cover On or before the due date established by section 3108 of this title, payment of taxes due as shown by a report required by this chapter is sent through the U.S. mail properly addressed shall be transmitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles, it shall be deemed received on the date shown by the postmark on the envelope containing the report only for purposes of avoiding penalty and interest. In the event a mailing date is affixed to the envelope by a machine owned or under the control of the person submitting the report, and the U.S. Post Office has corrected or changed the date stamped by causing the official U.S. Post Office postmark to also be imprinted on the envelope, the date shown by the official post office postmark shall be the accepted date if different from the original postmark:~~

(1) if the tax liability is more than \$25,000.00, by means of an electronic funds transfer payment; or

(2) if the tax liability is \$25,000.00 or less, by means of an electronic funds transfer payment or by a remittance through the U.S. mail.

Sec. 12. 23 V.S.A. § 3106(b) is amended to read:

(b) On or before the due date established by section 3108 of this title, payment of taxes due as shown by a report required by this chapter shall be transmitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles:

~~(1) if the tax liability is more than \$25,000.00, by means of an electronic funds transfer payment; or~~

~~(2) if the tax liability is \$25,000.00 or less, by means of an electronic funds transfer payment or by a remittance through the U.S. mail.~~

* * * Motor Vehicle Purchase and Use Tax * * *

Sec. 13. 32 V.S.A. § 8911 is amended to read:

§ 8911. EXCEPTIONS

The tax imposed by this chapter shall not apply to:

* * *

(8) Motor vehicles transferred to the spouse, mother, father, child, sibling, grandparent, or grandchild of the donor during the donor's life or following his or her death, or to a trust established for the benefit of any such persons or for the benefit of the donor, or subsequently transferred among such persons, including transfers following a death, provided ~~such~~ the motor vehicle has been registered or titled in this State in the name of the original donor. Transfers exempt under this subdivision (8) include eligible transfers resulting by operation of the law governing intestate estates.

* * *

* * * New Motor Vehicle Arbitration * * *

Sec. 14. 9 V.S.A. § 4173 is amended to read:

§ 4173. PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN REFUND OR REPLACEMENT;
WAIVER OF RIGHTS VOID

(a)(1) After reasonable attempt at repair or correction of the nonconformity, defect, or condition, or after the vehicle is out of service by reason of repair of one or more nonconformities, defects, or conditions for a cumulative total of 30 or more calendar days as provided in this chapter, the consumer shall notify the manufacturer and lessor in writing, on forms to be provided by the manufacturer at the time the new motor vehicle is delivered, of the nonconformity, defect, or condition and the consumer's election to proceed under this chapter. The forms shall be made available by the manufacturer to any public or nonprofit agencies that shall request them. Notice of consumer rights under this chapter shall be conspicuously displayed by all authorized dealers and agents of the manufacturer.

(2) The consumer shall in the notice elect whether to use the dispute settlement mechanism or the arbitration provisions established by the manufacturer or to proceed under the Vermont Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board as established under this chapter. Except in the case of a settlement agreement between a consumer and manufacturer, and unless federal law otherwise requires, any provision or agreement that purports to waive, limit, or disclaim the rights set forth in this chapter or that purports to require a consumer not to disclose the terms of the provision or agreement is void as contrary to public policy.

(3) The consumer's election of whether to proceed before the Board or the manufacturer's mechanism shall preclude his or her recourse to the method not selected.

* * *

* * * Three-wheeled Motorcycles * * *

Sec. 15. 23 V.S.A. § 601(f) is amended to read:

(f) Operators of autocycles shall be exempt from the requirements to obtain a motorcycle learner's permit or a motorcycle endorsement. The Commissioner shall offer operators of three-wheeled motorcycles that are not autocycles the opportunity to obtain a motorcycle endorsement that authorizes the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles only.

Sec. 16. 23 V.S.A. § 617 is amended to read:

§ 617. LEARNER'S PERMIT

* * *

(b)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any licensed person may apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for a learner's permit for the operation of a motorcycle in the form prescribed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall offer both a motorcycle learner's permit that authorizes the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles only and a motorcycle learner's permit that authorizes the operation of any motorcycle. The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of \$20.00 at the time application is made.

(2) After the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the applicable motorcycle endorsement examination, other than a skill test, the Commissioner may issue to the applicant a learner's permit ~~which~~ that entitles the applicant, subject to subsection 615(a) of this title, to operate a three-wheeled motorcycle only, or to operate any motorcycle, upon the public highways for a period of 120 days from the date of issuance. The fee for the examination shall be \$9.00.

(3) A motorcycle learner's permit may be renewed only twice upon payment of a \$20.00 fee. If, during the original permit period and two renewals, the permittee has not successfully passed the applicable skill test or ~~the~~ motorcycle rider training course, he or she may not obtain another motorcycle learner's permit for a period of 12 months from the expiration of the permit unless:

(A) he or she has successfully completed the applicable motorcycle rider training course; or

(B) the learner's permit and renewals thereof authorized the operation of any motorcycle and the permittee is seeking a learner's permit for the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles only.

(4) This section shall not affect section 602 of this title. ~~The fee for the examination shall be \$9.00.~~

* * *

(f)(1) The Commissioner may authorize motorcycle rider training instructors to administer ~~either the~~ a motorcycle endorsement examination for three-wheeled motorcycles only or for any motorcycle, or ~~the~~ a motorcycle skills skill test for three-wheeled motorcycles only or for any motorcycle, or both any of these. Upon successful completion of the applicable examination or test, the instructor shall issue to the applicant either a temporary motorcycle ~~learner~~ learner's permit or notice of motorcycle endorsement, as appropriate. The instructor shall immediately forward to the Commissioner the application

and fee together with such additional information as the Commissioner may require.

(2) The Commissioner shall maintain a list of approved in-state and out-of-state motorcycle rider training courses, successful completion of which the Commissioner shall deem to satisfy the skill test requirement. This list shall include courses that provide training on three-wheeled motorcycles.

* * * Dealer Records of Sales * * *

Sec. 17. 23 V.S.A. § 466 is amended to read:

§ 466. RECORDS; CUSTODIAN

(a) On a form prescribed or approved by the Commissioner, every licensed dealer shall maintain and retain for six years a record containing the following information, which shall be open to inspection by any law enforcement officer or motor vehicle inspector or other agent of the Commissioner during reasonable business hours:

(1) Every vehicle or motorboat ~~which~~ that is bought, sold, or exchanged by the licensee or received or accepted by the licensee for sale or exchange.

(2) Every vehicle or motorboat ~~which~~ that is bought or otherwise acquired and dismantled by the licensee.

(3) The name and address of the person from whom such vehicle or motorboat was purchased or acquired, the date thereof, the name and address of the person to whom any such vehicle or motorboat was sold or otherwise disposed of and the date thereof, and a sufficient description of every such vehicle or motorboat by name and identifying numbers thereon to identify the same.

~~(4) If the vehicle or motorboat is sold or otherwise transferred to a consumer, the cash price. As used in this section, "consumer" shall be as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 2451a(a) and "cash price" shall be as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 2351(6). [Repealed.]~~

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 9 and 11 (means of transmitting fuel tax payments) shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(b) Secs. 10 and 12 (means of transmitting fuel tax payments) shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

(c) This section, Sec. 14 (new motor vehicle arbitration), and Sec. 17

(dealer records) shall take effect on passage.

(d) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably by Senator Brock for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Transportation and when so amended ought pass.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

S. 285.

An act relating to universal recycling requirements.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Rodgers for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Solid Waste Management Facility Requirements * * *

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 6605 is amended to read:

§ 6605. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY CERTIFICATION

(a)(1) No person shall construct, substantially alter, or operate any solid waste management facility without first obtaining certification from the Secretary for such facility, site, or activity, except for sludge or septage treatment or storage facilities located within the fenced area of a domestic wastewater treatment plant permitted under chapter 47 of this title. This exemption for sludge or septage treatment or storage facilities shall exist only if:

(A) the treatment facility does not ~~utilize~~ use a process to ~~further~~ reduce pathogens further in order to qualify for marketing and distribution; and

(B) the facility is not a drying bed, lagoon, or nonconcrete bunker; and

(C) the owner of the facility has submitted a sludge and septage management plan to the Secretary and the Secretary has approved the plan. Noncompliance with an approved sludge and septage management plan shall constitute a violation of the terms of this chapter, as well as a violation under chapters 201 and 211 of this title.

(2) Certification shall be valid for a period not to exceed 10 years.

* * *

(j) A facility certified under this section that offers the collection of municipal solid waste shall:

(1) Beginning on July 1, 2014, collect mandated recyclables separate from other solid waste and deliver mandated recyclables to a facility maintained and operated for the management and recycling of mandated recyclables. A facility shall not be required to accept mandated recyclables from a commercial hauler.

(2) Beginning on July 1, 2015, collect leaf and yard residuals between April 1 and December 15 separate from other solid waste and deliver leaf and yard residuals to a location that manages leaf and yard residuals in a manner consistent with the priority uses established under subdivisions 6605k(a)(3)-(5) of this title.

(3) Beginning on July 1, 2017, collect food residuals separate from other solid waste and deliver food residuals to a location that manages food residuals in a manner consistent with the priority uses established under subdivisions 6605k(a)(2)-(5) of this title.

* * *

* * * Commercial Hauler Requirements * * *

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 6607a is amended to read:

§ 6607a. WASTE TRANSPORTATION

(a) A commercial hauler desiring to transport waste within the State shall apply to the Secretary for a permit to do so, by submitting an application on a form prepared for this purpose by the Secretary and by submitting the disclosure statement described in section 6605f of this title. These permits shall have a duration of five years and shall be renewed annually. The application shall indicate the nature of the waste to be hauled. The Secretary may specify conditions that the Secretary deems necessary to assure compliance with State law.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Commercial hauler" means:

(A) any person that transports regulated quantities of hazardous waste; and

(B) any person that transports solid waste for compensation in a vehicle.

(2) The commercial hauler required to obtain a permit under this section is the legal or commercial entity that is transporting the waste, rather than the individual employees and subcontractors of the legal or commercial entity. In the case of a sole proprietorship, the sole proprietor is the commercial entity.

(3) The Secretary shall not require a commercial hauler to obtain a permit under this section, comply with the disclosure requirements of this section, comply with the reporting and registration requirements of section 6608 of this title, or pay the fee specified in 3 V.S.A. § 2822, if:

(A) the commercial hauler does not transport more than four cubic yards of solid waste at any time; and

(B) the solid waste transportation services performed are incidental to other nonwaste transportation-related services performed by the commercial hauler.

* * *

(g)(1) Except as set forth in subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection, a commercial hauler that offers the collection of municipal solid waste shall:

(A) Beginning on July 1, 2015, shall offer to collect mandated recyclables ~~separated~~ separate from other solid waste and deliver mandated recyclables to a facility maintained and operated for the management and recycling of mandated recyclables.

(B) Beginning on July 1, 2016, may offer to collect leaf and yard residuals separate from other solid waste and deliver leaf and yard residuals to a location that manages leaf and yard residuals in a manner consistent with the priority uses established under subdivisions 6605k(a)(3)-(5) of this title.

~~(C) Beginning on July 1, 2018, offer collection of food residuals separate from other solid waste and deliver to a location that manages food residuals in a manner consistent with the priority uses established under subdivisions 6605k(a)(2)-(5) of this title. [Repealed.]~~

(2) In a municipality that has adopted a solid waste management ordinance addressing the collection of mandated recyclables, leaf and yard residuals, or food residuals, a commercial hauler in that municipality is not required to comply with the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection and subsection (h) of this section for the material addressed by the ordinance if the ordinance:

(A) is applicable to all residents of the municipality;

(B) prohibits a resident from opting out of municipally provided solid waste services; and

(C) does not apply a variable rate for the collection for the material addressed by the ordinance.

(3) A commercial hauler is not required to comply with the requirements of subdivision (1)(A), ~~(B)~~, or ~~(C)~~ of this subsection in a specified area within a municipality if:

(A) the Secretary has approved a solid waste implementation plan for the municipality;

(B) for purposes of waiver of the requirements of subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection (g), the Secretary determines that under the approved plan:

(i) the municipality is achieving the per capita disposal rate in the State Solid Waste Plan; and

(ii) the municipality demonstrates that its progress toward meeting the diversion goal in the State Solid Waste Plan is substantially equivalent to that of municipalities complying with the requirements of subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection (g);

(C) the approved plan delineates an area where solid waste management services required by subdivision (1)(A), ~~(B)~~, or ~~(C)~~ of this subsection (g) are not required; and

(D) in the delineated area, alternatives to the services, including on-site management, required under subdivision (1)(A), ~~(B)~~, or ~~(C)~~ of this subsection (g) are offered, the alternative services have capacity to serve the needs of all residents in the delineated area, and the alternative services are convenient to residents of the delineated area.

(4) A commercial hauler is not required to comply with the requirements of subdivision (1)(A), ~~(B)~~, or ~~(C)~~ of this subsection for mandated recyclables, or leaf and yard residuals, or food residuals collected as part of a litter collection.

* * *

(i) A commercial hauler that operates a bag-drop or fast-trash site at a fixed location to collect municipal solid waste shall offer at the site all collection services required under 10 V.S.A. § 6605(j).

* * * Landfill Disposal * * *

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 6621a is amended to read:

§ 6621a. LANDFILL DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) In accordance with the following schedule, no person shall knowingly dispose of the following materials in solid waste or in landfills:

* * *

(10) ~~Leaf Source~~ separated leaf and yard residuals and wood waste after July 1, 2016.

* * *

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 55.

An act relating to territorial jurisdiction over regulated drug sales.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sears for the Committee on Judiciary.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2301 is amended to read:

§ 2301. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law relating to the retention and disposition of evidence or lost, unclaimed, or abandoned property, the provisions of this chapter shall govern the retention or disposition, or both, of unlawful firearms, ~~as defined in section 2302 of this title,~~ in the possession of any agency, ~~as defined in section 2302 and the disposition of abandoned firearms in the possession of the Department of Public Safety.~~

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 2302 is amended to read:

§ 2302. UNLAWFUL FIREARMS; AGENCY

~~(a) For purposes of As used in this chapter;~~

(1) ~~“unlawful~~ Unlawful firearms” means firearms the possession of which constitutes a violation of federal or ~~state~~ State law and firearms carried or used in violation of any federal or ~~state~~ State law or in the commission of any federal or ~~state~~ State felony.

~~(b) For purposes of this chapter, “agency”~~ (2) “Agency” means any state

State or local law enforcement agency, any state agency except the Vermont fish and wildlife department Department of Fish and Wildlife, and any local government entity.

(3) “Unlawful per se” means firearms the possession of which is unlawful under any circumstances under State or federal law.

(4) “Abandoned firearms” means firearms in the possession of the Department of Public Safety that are no longer needed as evidence and remain unclaimed for more than 18 months from the date the firearms come into the Department’s possession.

Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 2305 is amended to read:

§ 2305. DISPOSITION OF UNLAWFUL FIREARMS

(a) Any unlawful firearm which the commissioner of public safety determines to be unsafe or the possession of which is unlawful per se shall either be destroyed, or if the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety deems such to be it appropriate, retained by the department of public safety Department of Public Safety for purposes of forensic science reference. In no event shall the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety dispose of such an unlawful a firearm in any other manner or to any other person.

(b)(1) Except as provided in section 2306 of this title, all other unlawful and abandoned firearms shall either be:

(A) delivered to the state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General Services as directed by him or her for disposition by public sale pursuant to the provisions of chapter 13 of Title 27, or by such other manner of sale deemed appropriate by the state treasurer, or sale to a federally licensed firearms dealer pursuant to the Commissioner’s authority under Title 29;

(B) at the discretion of the state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, donated to a governmental agency or to a nonprofit organization upon the recommendation of the commissioner of fish and wildlife, transferred to the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife for disposition; or,

(C) if the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety deems such to be it appropriate, retained by the department of public safety Department of Public Safety for purposes of forensic science reference.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provision subdivision (1) of this subsection, an unlawful firearm used in the commission of a homicide shall not be delivered to the state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General Services for disposition by public sale, but shall be disposed of only in accordance with:

(A) the provisions of subsection (a) of this section in the same manner as unlawful per se firearms; or

(B) section 2306 of this title.

(c) When the firearms sold under this section have been delivered to the commissioner of public safety by a local law enforcement agency, the state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall return two-thirds of the net proceeds from the sale to the appropriate municipality. The remaining proceeds shall be allocated pursuant to the authority of the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services under 29 V.S.A. § 1557.

(d) No State agency or department or State official shall be subject to any civil, criminal, administrative, or regulatory liability for any act taken or omission made in reliance on the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 2306 is amended to read:

§ 2306. RIGHTS OF INNOCENT OWNER

Nothing contained in subsection 2305(b) of this title shall prejudice the rights of the bona fide owner of any unlawful firearm, the disposition of which is governed by that subsection, upon affirmative proof by him or her that he or she had no express or implied knowledge that such unlawful firearm was being or intended to be used illegally or for illegal purposes. If the bona fide owner provides reasonable and satisfactory proof of his or her ownership and of his or her lack of express or implied knowledge to the ~~commissioner of public safety~~ Commissioner of Public Safety, the unlawful firearm shall be returned to him or her. If the ~~commissioner of public safety~~ Commissioner of Public Safety determines that the proof offered is not satisfactory or reasonable, the person may, within 14 days, request a hearing before the ~~state treasurer~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the ~~commissioner of public safety~~ Commissioner of Public Safety, jointly. The ~~state treasurer~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the ~~commissioner of public safety~~ Commissioner of Public Safety shall promptly hold a hearing on any claim filed under this section, in accordance with the provisions for contested cases in 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 of Title 3.

Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2307 is amended to read:

§ 2307. FIREARMS RELINQUISHED PURSUANT TO RELIEF FROM ABUSE ORDER; STORAGE; FEES; RETURN

* * *

(2)(A)(i) If the owner fails to retrieve the firearm, ammunition, or weapon and pay the applicable storage fee within 90 days of the court order releasing the items, the firearm, ammunition, or weapon may be sold for fair

market value. Title to the items shall pass to the law enforcement agency or firearms dealer for the purpose of transferring ownership, except that the Vermont State Police shall follow the procedure described in section 2305 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 6. 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 the disposition of unlawful and abandoned firearms.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Amendment to S. 55 to be offered by Senators Baruth, Sirotkin, Clarkson, Ingram, Lyons, McCormack, Pearson, Ashe, Ayer, Balint and Brooks

Senators Baruth, Sirotkin, Clarkson, Ingram, Lyons, McCormack, Pearson, Ashe, Ayer, Balint and Brooks move to amend the bill by adding a new Sec. 6 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. 13 V.S.A. § 4019 is added to read:

§ 4019. FIREARMS TRANSFERS; BACKGROUND CHECKS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Firearm” shall have the same meaning as in subdivision 4016(a)(3) of this title.

(2) “Immediate family member” means a spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling, grandparent, or grandchild.

(3) “Law enforcement officer” shall have the same meaning as in subdivision 4016(a)(4) of this title.

(4) “Licensed dealer” means a person issued a license as a dealer in firearms pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 923(a).

(5) “Proposed transferee” means an unlicensed person to whom a proposed transferor intends to transfer a firearm.

(6) “Proposed transferor” means an unlicensed person who intends to transfer a firearm to another unlicensed person.

(7) “Transfer” means to transfer a firearm by means of sale, trade, or gift.

(8) “Unlicensed person” means a person who has not been issued a license as a dealer, importer, or manufacturer in firearms pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 923(a).

(b)(1) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, an unlicensed person shall not transfer a firearm to another unlicensed person unless:

(A) the proposed transferor and the proposed transferee physically appear together with the firearm before a licensed dealer and request that the licensed dealer facilitate the transfer; and

(B) the licensed dealer agrees to facilitate the transfer and determines that the proposed transferee is not prohibited by State or federal law from purchasing or possessing the firearm.

(2) A person shall not, in connection with the transfer or attempted transfer of a firearm pursuant to this section, knowingly make a false statement or exhibit a false identification intended to deceive a licensed dealer with respect to any fact material to the transfer.

(c)(1) A licensed dealer who agrees to facilitate a firearm transfer pursuant to this section shall comply with all requirements of State and federal law and shall, unless otherwise expressly provided in this section, conduct the transfer in the same manner as the licensed dealer would if selling the firearm from his or her own inventory.

(2) A licensed dealer shall return the firearm to the proposed transferor and decline to continue facilitating the transfer if the licensed dealer determines that the proposed transferee is prohibited by federal or State law from purchasing or possessing the firearm.

(3) A licensed dealer may charge a reasonable fee to facilitate the transfer of a firearm between a proposed transferor and a proposed transferee pursuant to this section.

(d)(1) An unlicensed person who transfers a firearm to another unlicensed person in violation of subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$500.00, or both.

(2) A person who violates subdivision (b)(2) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$500.00, or both.

(e) This section shall not apply to:

(1) the transfer of a firearm by or to a law enforcement agency;

(2) the transfer of a firearm by or to a law enforcement officer or member of the U.S. Armed Forces acting within the course of his or her official duties; or

(3) the transfer of a firearm from one immediate family member to another immediate family member.

And by renumbering the original Sec. 6, effective date, to be Sec. 7

S. 85.

An act relating to simplifying government for small businesses.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Clarkson for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

(a) The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the Department of Labor, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Department of Taxes, the Agency of Digital Services, and other stakeholders, shall review and consider the necessary procedural and substantive steps and shall submit to the General Assembly on or before December 15, 2018, a design proposal, including a timeline, for an easily navigable portal for businesses, entrepreneurs, and citizens to access information about starting and operating a business in Vermont, with an emphasis on small business, and to enable registration with all required State entities with a single login without duplicating data entry.

(b) The Secretary shall consider and integrate to the extent feasible features that:

(1) enhance the State's website to simplify registration and offer a clear compilation of State permitting rules;

(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 government;

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

(4) provide mentoring, assistance with navigating the process, and more direct support to small businesses, whether by designating an existing position or creating a new position within either the Office of the Secretary of State or another government entity, and to offer technical guidance, information, and other support to persons who are forming or operating a small business;

(5) after registration, guide the user through secondary requirements and send follow-up e-mail with links to additional services, frequently asked questions, and a point of contact to discuss questions or explore any assistance needed;

(6) provide guidance and links to State, partner organization, and federal programs and initiatives;

(7) provide links to other Vermont-based businesses of interest; and

(8) create a tool set for ongoing communication and updates, including digital channels such as e-mail, social media, and other communications.

Sec. 2. 11 V.S.A. § 1625a is added to read:

§ 1625a. ONE-STOP WEB PORTAL SURCHARGE

(a) In addition to the fee imposed on a business organization at the time of filing its annual report pursuant to the applicable section of this title or Titles 11A-11C of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, the Secretary of State shall collect a surcharge in the amount of \$2.00, which the Secretary shall maintain in a segregated account and use for the purpose of developing and implementing a one-stop navigable portal for businesses, entrepreneurs, and citizens to access information about starting a business in Vermont and to provide ongoing support to businesses interfacing with State government.

(b) The Secretary shall focus the services available pursuant to this section primarily on businesses with fewer than 20 employees.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 180.

An act relating to the Vermont Fair Repair Act.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) Manufacturers can make it difficult or impossible—whether inadvertently or intentionally—for consumers or independent repair technicians to fix their consumer electronic products, even for such minor repairs as replacing a battery or screen.

(2) Manufacturers may limit access to information or parts to correct defects to only those customers who are under warranty; may refuse access to

information or parts for owners of older models; and may refuse to stock or sell parts at fair and reasonable prices. Consequently, consumers are often left with few options other than to buy new.

(3) Modern repairs involve electronics: any product that can have embedded electronics will eventually have embedded electronics. Repairing those electronics requires information, parts, firmware access, and tooling specifications from the product designers.

(4) The knowledge and tools to repair and refurbish consumer electronic products should be distributed as widely and freely as the products themselves. In contrast to centralized manufacturing, reuse must be broadly distributed to achieve economies of scale.

(5) Many manufacturers have made commitments to sustainability, repair, and reuse, and the innovation economy of Vermont and the United States has had many positive economic and environmental impacts. Legislation that further promotes extending the lifespan of consumer electronic products can create jobs and benefit the environment.

(6) As demonstrated by Massachusetts's experience with a right to repair initiative concerning automobiles in 2014, which resulted in a compromise between manufacturers and independent repair providers to adopt a voluntary nationwide approach for providing diagnostic codes and repair data available in a common format by the 2018 model year, legislative action to secure a right to repair can achieve positive benefits for manufacturers, independent businesses, and consumers.

Sec. 2. RIGHT TO REPAIR TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Right to Repair Task Force.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following five members:

(1) one current member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one current member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Attorney General or designee;

(4) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee; and

(5) the Secretary of Digital Services or designee.

(c) Stakeholder engagement. The Task Force shall solicit testimony and participation in its work from representatives of relevant stakeholders,

including authorized and independent repair providers, and consumer, environmental, agricultural, medical device, and other trade groups having an interest in consumer or business electronic product repairs.

(d) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall review and consider the following issues relating to potential legislation designed to secure the right to repair consumer electronic products, including personal electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, and computers:

(1) the scope of products to include;

(2) economic costs and benefits, including economic development and workforce opportunities;

(3) effects on the cost and availability to consumers of new and used consumer electronic products in the marketplace, including diminished availability of refurbished products for secondary users;

(4) consequences or impacts for intellectual property and trade secrets;

(5) environmental and economic costs of a “throw-away” economy;

(6) legal issues, including potential for alignment or conflict with federal law, and litigation risks;

(7) issues relating to privacy and security features in electronic products;
and

(8) any other issues the Task Force considers relevant and necessary to accomplish its work, including regulation of business consumer products or other products the Task Force finds appropriate.

(e) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, legal, and fiscal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office. Relevant agencies and departments within State government shall provide their technical and other expertise upon request of the Task Force.

(f) Report. On or before December 15, 2018, the Task Force shall submit a written report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action, including specific findings and recommendations concerning personal electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, and computers.

(g) Meetings.

(1) The Office of Legislative Council shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2018.

(2) The legislative members of the Task Force shall serve as co-chairs.

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

(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on December 15, 2018.

(h) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force 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 five meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 192.

An act relating to transferring the professional regulation of law enforcement officers from the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council to the Office of Professional Regulation.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Pearson for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Transfer to OPR * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:

§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of State and shall be an exempt employee. The following boards or professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

* * *

(48) Law Enforcement Officers

Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. chapter 103 is added to read:

CHAPTER 103. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 5301. PURPOSE AND EFFECT

In order to safeguard the life and health of the people of this State, a person shall not practice, or offer to practice, as a law enforcement officer unless currently licensed under this chapter.

§ 5302. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Category A conduct” means:

(A) A felony.

(B) A misdemeanor that is committed while on duty and did not involve the legitimate performance of duty.

(C) Any of the following misdemeanors, if committed off duty:

(i) simple assault, second offense;

(ii) domestic assault;

(iii) false reports and statements;

(iv) driving under the influence, second offense;

(v) violation of a relief from abuse order or of a condition of release;

(vi) stalking;

(vii) false pretenses;

(viii) voyeurism;

(ix) prostitution or soliciting prostitution;

(x) distribution of a regulated substance;

(xi) simple assault on a law enforcement officer; or

(xii) possession of a regulated substance, second offense.

(2) “Category B conduct” means gross professional misconduct amounting to actions on duty or under color of authority, or both, that involve willful failure to comply with a State-required policy or substantial deviation from professional conduct as defined by the law enforcement agency’s policy or if not defined by the agency’s policy, then as defined by rules adopted by the Office, such as:

(A) sexual harassment involving physical contact or misuse of position;

(B) misuse of official position for personal or economic gain;

(C) excessive use of force under color of authority, second offense;

(D) biased enforcement; or

(E) use of an electronic criminal records database for personal, political, or economic gain.

(3) “Category C conduct” means any allegation of misconduct pertaining to Office or Council processes or operations, including:

(A) intentionally exceeding the scope of practice for an officer’s certification level;

(B) knowingly making material false statements or reports to the Office or Council;

(C) falsification of Office or Council documents;

(D) intentional interference with Office or Council investigations, including intimidation of witnesses or misrepresentations of material facts;

(E) material false statements about certification or licensure status to a law enforcement agency;

(F) knowing employment of an individual in a position or for duties for which the individual lacks proper certification;

(G) intentional failure to conduct a valid investigation or file a report as required by this chapter; or

(H) failure to complete annual in-service training required by the Council.

(4) “Certification” means the document issued by the Council that verifies that a law enforcement officer has successfully completed the Council’s initial basic training or annual in-service training requirements, or such a document issued by another entity with training requirements substantially similar to those of the Council as determined by the Director.

(5) “Council” means the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council.

(6) “Director” means the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation.

(7) “Effective internal affairs program” means that a law enforcement agency does all of the following:

(A) Complaints. Accepts complaints against its law enforcement officers from any source.

(B) Investigators. Assigns an investigator to determine whether an officer violated an agency rule or policy or State or federal law.

(C) Policies. Has language in its policies or applicable collective bargaining agreement that outlines for its officers expectations of employment or prohibited activity, or both, and provides due process rights for its officers in its policies. These policies shall establish a code of conduct and a corresponding range of discipline.

(D) Fairness in discipline. Treats its accused officers fairly and decides officer discipline based on just cause, a set range of discipline for offenses, consideration of mitigating and aggravating circumstances, and its policies' due process rights.

(E) Civilian review. Provides for review of officer discipline by civilians, which shall be a selectboard or other elected or appointed body or person, at least for the conduct required to be reported to the Office under this chapter. The assistant judges of a county shall appoint a committee of at least three and up to five civilians, who shall be selected from among elected officials who reside in the county, to review the discipline imposed on officers by the sheriff.

(8) "Executive officer" means the highest-ranking law enforcement officer of a law enforcement agency.

(9) "Law enforcement agency" means the employer of a law enforcement officer.

(10) "Law enforcement officer" means a member of the Department of Public Safety who exercises law enforcement powers; a member of the State Police; a Capitol Police officer; a municipal police officer; a constable who exercises law enforcement powers; a motor vehicle inspector; an employee of the Department of Liquor Control who exercises law enforcement powers; an investigator employed by the Secretary of State; a Board of Medical Practice investigator employed by the Department of Health; an investigator employed by the Attorney General or a State's Attorney; a fish and game warden; a sheriff; a deputy sheriff who exercises law enforcement powers; a railroad police officer commissioned pursuant to 5 V.S.A. chapter 68, subchapter 8; or a police officer appointed to the University of Vermont's Department of Police Services.

(11) "License" means a current authorization granted by the Director, permitting the practice as a law enforcement officer.

(12) "Office" means the Office of Professional Regulation.

(13) "Unprofessional conduct" means Category A, B, or C conduct.

(14)(A) "Valid investigation" means an investigation conducted pursuant to a law enforcement agency's established or accepted procedures.

(B) An investigation shall not be valid if:

(i) the agency has not adopted an effective internal affairs program;

(ii) the agency refuses, without any legitimate basis, to conduct an investigation;

(iii) the agency intentionally did not report allegations to the Office as required;

(iv) the agency attempts to cover up the misconduct or takes an action intended to discourage or intimidate a complainant; or

(v) the agency's executive officer is the officer accused of misconduct.

§ 5303. PROHIBITIONS; OFFENSES

(a) It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person, including any corporation, association, or individual, to:

(1) sell or fraudulently obtain or furnish any law enforcement degree, diploma, certification, license, or any other related document or record or to aid or abet therein;

(2) practice law enforcement under cover of any degree, diploma, registration, certification, license, or related document or record illegally or fraudulently obtained or signed or issued unlawfully or under fraudulent representation;

(3) practice as a law enforcement officer unless licensed or otherwise authorized to do so under the provisions of this chapter;

(4) represent himself or herself as being licensed or otherwise authorized by this State to practice as a law enforcement officer or use in connection with a name any words, letters, signs, or figures that imply that a person is a law enforcement officer when not licensed or otherwise authorized under this chapter;

(5) practice as a law enforcement officer during the time a license or authorization issued under this chapter is suspended or revoked; or

(6) employ an unlicensed or unauthorized person to practice as a law enforcement officer.

(b) Any person violating this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127.

§ 5304. EXEMPTIONS

The following shall not require a license under this chapter:

(1) The furnishing of assistance in the case of an emergency or disaster.

(2) The practice of a law enforcement officer who is employed by the U.S. government or any bureau, division, or agency of it while in the discharge of his or her official duties.

(3) The practice of any other occupation or profession by a person duly licensed or otherwise authorized under the laws of this State.

Subchapter 2. Administration

§ 5311. DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR

(a) The Director shall:

(1) provide general information to applicants for license as law enforcement officers;

(2) receive applications for licensure and provide licenses to applicants qualified under this chapter;

(3) administer fees as established by law;

(4) refer all disciplinary matters to an administrative law officer;

(5) renew, revoke, and reinstate licenses as ordered by an administrative law officer; and

(6) explain appeal procedures to licensed law enforcement officers and to applicants and complaint procedures to the public.

(b) The Director may adopt rules appropriate to perform his or her duties under this chapter and to administer the provisions of this chapter.

§ 5312. ADVISOR APPOINTEES

(a)(1) The Secretary of State shall appoint three persons for five-year staggered terms to serve at the Secretary's pleasure as advisors in matters relating to law enforcement. One of the initial appointments shall be for less than a five-year term. The Secretary shall consider representation among small, medium, and large agencies as factors in making the appointments.

(2) An advisor appointee shall have not less than three years' experience as a law enforcement officer immediately preceding appointment; shall be licensed as a law enforcement officer in Vermont; and shall be actively engaged in the practice of law enforcement in this State during incumbency.

(b) The Director shall seek the advice of the law enforcement advisor appointees in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

Subchapter 3. Licenses

§ 5321. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE

An applicant for licensure shall demonstrate that he or she has a current, valid certification.

§ 5322. LICENSURE RENEWAL

(a) In order to renew his or her license, a law enforcement officer shall demonstrate that he or she has a current, valid certification. A license shall be renewed biennially upon application and payment of the required fee. Failure

to comply with the provisions of this section shall result in suspension of all privileges granted to the licensee, beginning on the expiration date of the license.

(b) A license that has lapsed shall be renewed upon payment of the renewal fee and any applicable late renewal penalty pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 127(d).

§ 5323. APPLICATIONS

Applications for licensure and license renewal shall be on forms provided by the Director. Each application shall contain a statement under oath showing the applicant's certification and other pertinent information required by law and shall be accompanied by the required fee.

§ 5324. LICENSURE GENERALLY

(a) The Director shall issue a license or renew a license, upon payment of the fees required under this chapter, to an applicant or licensee who has satisfactorily met all the requirements of this chapter.

(b)(1) The actions and legal authority of a law enforcement officer employed by a law enforcement agency or elected to a law enforcement office whose license has expired and who acts with the apparent authority of a license issued under this chapter shall be valid at law, notwithstanding the failure to renew the license.

(2) The provisions of this subsection shall only apply during the 30-day reinstatement period described in subdivision (c)(2) of this section.

(c)(1) The Director shall provide written notice that the officer's license has expired to the officer, the officer's executive officer, if any, and the Council.

(2) The effective date of a license that was renewed during the 30 days following license expiration shall relate back to the date the license expired, up to the date the license was reinstated, and the license shall be deemed legally valid during that timeframe.

§ 5325. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay those fees set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 125(b).

§ 5326. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

A law enforcement officer's home address and personal telephone number and email address produced or acquired under this chapter shall be kept confidential and are exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act.

Subchapter 4. Investigations, Reports, and Unprofessional

Conduct Sanctions

§ 5331. INVESTIGATIONS

(a) Agency investigations of Category A and B conduct.

(1)(A) Each law enforcement agency shall conduct a valid investigation of any complaint alleging that a law enforcement officer employed by the agency committed Category A or Category B conduct. An agency shall conclude its investigation even if the officer resigns from the agency during the course of the investigation.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1), a law enforcement agency shall refer to the Office any unprofessional conduct complaints made against a law enforcement officer who is the executive officer of that agency.

(2)(A) The Office shall accept from any source complaints alleging a law enforcement officer committed unprofessional conduct and, if the Director deems such a complaint credible, he or she shall refer any complaints regarding Category A or Category B conduct to the executive officer of the agency who employs that officer, and that agency shall conduct a valid investigation.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2), the Office shall cause to be conducted an alternate course of investigation if the allegation is in regard to a law enforcement officer who is the executive officer of the agency.

(b) Exception to an agency's valid investigation. Notwithstanding a law enforcement agency's valid investigation of a complaint, the Office may investigate that complaint or cause the complaint to be investigated if the officer resigned before a valid investigation had begun or was completed.

(c) Office and Council investigations of Category C conduct.

(1) The Office shall investigate allegations of Category C conduct pertaining to Office processes.

(2) The Council shall investigate allegations of Category C conduct pertaining to Council processes.

§ 5332. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; DUTY TO REPORT

(a)(1) The executive officer of a law enforcement agency or the chair of the agency's civilian review board shall report to the Office within 10 business days if any of the following occur in regard to a law enforcement officer of the agency:

(A) Category A.

(i) There is a finding of probable cause by the criminal division of a court that the officer committed Category A conduct.

(ii) There is any decision or findings of fact or verdict regarding allegations that the officer committed Category A conduct, including a judicial decision and any appeal therefrom.

(B) Category B.

(i) The agency receives a complaint against the officer that, if deemed credible by the executive officer of the agency as a result of a valid investigation, alleges that the officer committed Category B conduct.

(ii) The agency receives or issues any of the following:

(I) a report or findings of a valid investigation finding that the officer committed Category B conduct; or

(II) any decision or findings, including findings of fact or verdict, regarding allegations that the officer committed Category B conduct, including a hearing officer decision, arbitration, administrative decision, or judicial decision, and any appeal therefrom.

(C) Termination. The agency terminates the officer for Category A or Category B conduct.

(D) Resignation. The officer resigns from the agency while under investigation for unprofessional conduct.

(2) As part of his or her report, the executive officer of the agency or the chair of the civilian review board shall provide to the Office a copy of any relevant documents associated with the report, including any findings, decision, and the agency's investigative report. The information provided shall be treated as a complaint under the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 131.

(b) The Director shall report to the Attorney General and the State's Attorney of jurisdiction any allegations that an officer committed Category A conduct.

§ 5333. PERMITTED OFFICE SANCTIONS

(a) Generally. The Office may impose any of the following sanctions on a law enforcement officer's license upon its finding that a law enforcement officer committed unprofessional conduct:

(1) written warning;

(2) suspension, but to run concurrently with the length and time of any suspension imposed by a law enforcement agency with an effective internal

affairs program, which shall amount to suspension for time already served if an officer has already served a suspension imposed by his or her agency with such a program;

(3) revocation, with the option of relicensure at the discretion of the Office; or

(4) permanent revocation.

(b) Intended revocation; temporary voluntary surrender.

(1)(A) If, after an evidentiary hearing, the Office intends to revoke a law enforcement officer's license due to its finding that the officer committed unprofessional conduct, the Office shall issue a decision to that effect.

(B) Within 10 business days from the date of that decision, such an officer may voluntarily surrender his or her license if there is a pending labor proceeding related to the Office's unprofessional conduct findings.

(C) A voluntary surrender of an officer's license shall remain in effect until the labor proceeding and all appeals are finally adjudicated or until the officer requests a final sanction hearing, whichever occurs first, and thereafter until the Office's final sanction hearing on the matter. At that hearing, the Office may modify its findings and decision on the basis of additional evidence, but shall not be bound by any outcome of the labor proceeding.

(2) If an officer fails to voluntarily surrender his or her license in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Office's original findings and decision shall take effect. However, if the final adjudication of the labor proceeding is inconsistent with the Office's findings and decision, at the officer's request, the Director may, in his or her discretion, order that the Office's findings and decision be reconsidered.

§ 5334. LIMITATION ON OFFICE SANCTIONS; FIRST OFFENSE OF CATEGORY B CONDUCT

(a) Category B conduct; first offense. If a law enforcement agency conducts a valid investigation of a complaint alleging that a law enforcement officer committed a first offense of Category B conduct, the Office shall take no action.

(b) "Offense" defined. As used in this section, an "offense" means any offense committed by a law enforcement officer during the course of his or her licensure, and includes any offenses committed during employment at a previous law enforcement agency.

§ 5335. INVALID INVESTIGATIONS

Nothing in this subchapter shall prohibit the Office from causing a complaint to be investigated or taking disciplinary action on an officer's license if the Office determines that a law enforcement agency's investigation of the officer's conduct did not constitute a valid investigation.

Sec. 3. CREATION OF TWO NEW POSITIONS WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

(a) To support the administration of law enforcement officer professional regulation set forth in Sec. 2 of this act, there is created the following positions within the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation:

- (1) one classified investigator; and
- (2) one exempt attorney.

(b) Any funding necessary to support the positions created under subsection (a) of this section shall be derived from the Office's Professional Regulatory Fee Fund, with no General Fund dollars.

* * * Council Revisions * * *

Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 2357 is amended to read:

§ 2357. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(a) The Executive Director of the Council, on behalf of the Council, shall have the following powers and duties, subject to the supervision of the Council and to be exercised only in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter:

* * *

(b) The Executive Director shall collaborate with the Office of Professional Regulation to alert the Office of:

- (1) persons who have successfully obtained or renewed their certification; and
- (2) the reports made under section 2362 of this chapter.

Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2360 is added to read:

§ 2360. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; DUTY TO ADOPT AN EFFECTIVE INTERNAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM

(a) Each law enforcement agency shall adopt an effective internal affairs program in order to manage complaints regarding the agency's law enforcement officers.

(b) The Council shall create and maintain an effective internal affairs program model policy that may be used by law enforcement agencies to meet the requirements of this section.

(c) As used in this section, an “effective internal affairs program” means that a law enforcement agency does all of the following:

(1) Complaints. Accepts complaints against its law enforcement officers from any source.

(2) Investigators. Assigns an investigator to determine whether an officer violated an agency rule or policy or State or federal law.

(3) Policies. Has language in its policies or applicable collective bargaining agreement that outlines for its officers expectations of employment or prohibited activity, or both, and provides due process rights for its officers in its policies. These policies shall establish a code of conduct and a corresponding range of discipline.

(4) Fairness in discipline. Treats its accused officers fairly, and decides officer discipline based on just cause, a set range of discipline for offenses, consideration of mitigating and aggravating circumstances, and its policies’ due process rights.

(5) Civilian review. Provides for review of officer discipline by civilians, which shall be a selectboard or other elected or appointed body or person, at least for the conduct required to be reported to the Office of Professional Regulation under 26 V.S.A. chapter 103. The assistant judges of a county shall appoint a committee of at least three and up to five civilians, who shall be selected from among elected officials who reside in the county, to review the discipline imposed on officers by the sheriff.

Sec. 6. 20 V.S.A. § 2362 is amended to read:

§ 2362. REPORTS

(a) Within ten business days:

(1) Elected constables. A town, village, or city clerk shall notify the Council, on a form provided by the Council, of the election, appointment to fill a vacancy under 24 V.S.A. § 963, expiration of term, or reelection of any constable.

(2) Appointed constables and police chiefs. The legislative body of a municipality or its designee shall notify the Council of the appointment or removal of a constable or police chief.

(3) Municipal police officers. A police chief appointed under 24 V.S.A. § 1931 shall notify the Council of the appointment or removal of a police officer under the police chief’s direction and control.

(4) State law enforcement officers. The appointing authority of a State agency employing a law enforcement officer shall notify the Council of the

appointment or removal of a law enforcement officer employed by that agency.

(5) Sheriffs' officers. A sheriff shall notify the Council of the appointment or removal of a deputy or other law enforcement officer employed by that sheriff's department.

(b) Notification required by this section shall include the name of the constable, police chief, police officer, deputy, or other law enforcement officer; the date of appointment or removal; and the term of office or length of appointment, if any.

~~(c) A report required by this section may be combined with any report required under subchapter 2 of this chapter.~~

Sec. 7. REPEALS

The following are repealed in Title 20:

(1) In chapter 151 (Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council), the subchapter 1 (General Provisions) designation.

(2) In chapter 151, subchapter 2 (Unprofessional Conduct).

Sec. 8. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 56, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT

(a) Effective internal affairs programs.

(1) Law enforcement agencies. On or before July 1, 2018, each law enforcement agency shall adopt an effective internal affairs program in accordance with 20 V.S.A. ~~§ 2402(a) in Sec. 1 of this act~~ § 2360(a).

(2) Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council. On or before April 1, 2018, the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall adopt an effective internal affairs program model policy in accordance with 20 V.S.A. ~~§ 2402(b) in Sec. 1 of this act~~ § 2360(b).

~~(b) Alleged law enforcement officer unprofessional conduct. The provisions of 20 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 2 (unprofessional conduct) in Sec. 1 of this act shall apply to law enforcement officer conduct alleged to have been committed on and after the effective date of that subchapter. [Repealed.]~~

(c) Duty to disclose. The requirement for a former law enforcement agency to disclose the reason that a law enforcement officer is no longer employed by the agency as set forth in 20 V.S.A. § 2362a in Sec. 1 of this act shall not apply if there is a binding nondisclosure agreement prohibiting that disclosure that was executed prior to the effective date of that section.

~~(d) Council rules. The Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council may adopt rules in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 2411 (Council rules) in Sec. 1 of this act, prior to the effective date of that section. [Repealed.]~~

~~(e) Council Advisory Committee. The Governor shall make appointments to the Council Advisory Committee set forth in 20 V.S.A. § 2410 in Sec. 1 of this act prior to the effective date of that section. [Repealed.]~~

~~(f) Annual report of Executive Director. Annually, on or before January 15, beginning in the year 2019 and ending in the year 2022, the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the General Assembly regarding the Executive Director's analysis of the implementation of this act and any recommendations he or she may have for further legislative action. [Repealed.]~~

(g) Council, OPR; joint report. On or before October 1, 2017, the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council and the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation (Office) shall consult with law enforcement stakeholders and report to the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations on a proposal for the Office to perform duties related to the professional regulation of law enforcement officers.

* * * Vermont State Police * * *

Sec. 9. 20 V.S.A. § 1923 is amended to read:

§ 1923. INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

(a)(1) The State Police Advisory Commission shall advise and assist the Commissioner in developing and making known routine procedures to ensure that allegations of misconduct by State Police officers are investigated fully and fairly, and to ensure that appropriate action is taken with respect to such allegations.

(2) The Commissioner shall ensure that the procedures described in subdivision (1) of this subsection constitute an effective internal affairs program in order to comply with section ~~2402~~ 2360 of this title.

* * *

(d) Records of the Office of Internal Investigation shall be confidential, except:

(1) the State Police Advisory Commission shall, at any time, have full and free access to such records;

(2) the Commissioner shall deliver such materials from the records of the Office as may be necessary to appropriate prosecutorial authorities having jurisdiction;

(3) the Director of the State Police or the Chair of the State Police Advisory Commission shall report to the ~~Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council as required by section 2403 of this title~~ Office of Professional Regulation as required by 26 V.S.A. § 5332; and

(4) the State Police Advisory Commission shall, in its discretion, be entitled to report to such authorities as it may deem appropriate or to the public, or both, to ensure that proper action is taken in each case.

* * * Transitional Provisions, Conforming Revisions, and Effective Date * * *

Sec. 10. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

(a) Transfer of regulation. On the effective date of this act, a person certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council under the provisions of 20 V.S.A. chapter 151 shall be deemed licensed as a law enforcement officer by the Office of Professional Regulation under the provisions of 26 V.S.A. chapter 103 upon payment of the initial license fee set forth in 26 V.S.A. § 5325 in Sec. 2 of this act.

(b) Alleged law enforcement officer unprofessional conduct. The unprofessional conduct provisions applicable to law enforcement officers set forth in Sec. 2 of this act shall apply to law enforcement officer conduct alleged to have been committed on and after the effective date of this act.

Sec. 11. CONFORMING REVISIONS

When preparing the Vermont Statutes Annotated for publication, the Office of Legislative Council shall replace references to law enforcement officers certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council under 20 V.S.A. chapter 151 with references to law enforcement officers licensed by the Office of Professional Regulation under 26 V.S.A. chapter 103 and make substantially similar revisions as needed for consistency with Secs. 1-3 of this act, provided the revisions have no other effect on the meaning of the affected statutes.

Sec. 12. IMPLEMENTATION

(a) The advisor appointees created in Sec. 2, in 26 V.S.A. § 5312, shall be appointed within 60 days of the effective date of this section.

(b) The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation may adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 2 of this act prior to the effective date of that section.

Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) The following sections shall take effect on January 1, 2019:

(1) Sec. 1 (amending 3 V.S.A. § 122);

- (2) Sec. 2 (adding 26 V.S.A. chapter 103);
 - (3) Sec. 9 (amending 20 V.S.A. § 1923);
 - (4) Sec. 10 (transitional provisions); and
 - (5) Sec. 11 (conforming revisions);
- (b) The following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2018:

- (1) Sec. 6 (amending 20 V.S.A. § 2362); and
- (2) Sec. 7 (repeals), except that in 20 V.S.A. § 2355 (Council powers and duties), subdivision (a)(11) (decertification of persons who have been convicted of a felony subsequent to their certification as law enforcement officers) shall be repealed on January 1, 2019.

(c) This section and the following sections shall take effect on passage:

- (1) Sec. 3 (creating positions in the Office of Professional Regulation);
- (2) Sec. 4 (amending 20 V.S.A. § 2357);
- (3) Sec. 5 (adding 20 V.S.A. § 2360);
- (4) Sec. 8 (amending 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 56, Sec. 2); and
- (5) Sec. 12 (implementation).

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 206.

An act relating to business consumer protection for point-of-sale equipment leases.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Soucy for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 9 is added to read:

Subchapter 9. Credit Card Terminal Leases

§ 2482h. SOLICITATION; MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATION

(a) As used in this subchapter, “credit card terminal” means physical equipment used at the point of sale to accept payment by a payment card, including a credit card, debit card, EBT card, prepaid card, or gift card.

(b) A person who solicits a lease for the use of a credit card terminal:

- (1) shall accurately disclose, orally and in writing, the nature and scope

of his or her relationship to the person or persons who own, lease, service, and finance the credit card terminal or provide related services, including whether he or she is an employee, independent contractor, or agent of one or more of those persons;

(2) shall accurately disclose the terms of a lease and whether oral statements or commitments he or she makes to the prospective lessee while soliciting a lease are included in the terms of the lease and enforceable against a party to a lease; and

(3) shall not make a material misrepresentation to the prospective lessee concerning the nature of his or her relationships pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, or concerning a lease and its terms pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

§ 2482i. CREDIT CARD TERMINAL; LEASE PROVISIONS

The following provisions apply to a lease for the use of a credit card terminal:

(1) Plain language. The party primarily responsible for drafting the lease shall use plain language designed to be understood by ordinary consumers, presented in a reasonable format, typeface, and font.

(2) Lease; option to purchase; total cost; disclosure.

(A) The lease shall specify whether the consumer has an option to purchase the credit card terminal that is the subject of the lease, and if so, the purchase price and terms.

(B) If the lessor does not offer the option to purchase the credit card terminal, the lease shall include a disclaimer that the lessee may be able to purchase the same or a similar credit card terminal from another source.

(C) The lease shall specify the terms of the lease and shall provide a cap on the total cost the lessee is required to pay to use the credit card terminal, which shall not exceed 300 percent of the lessor's original purchase price for the credit card terminal or, if the lessor is the manufacturer of the credit card terminal, its total cost of manufacture.

(3) Relationship to processing services and fees.

(A) The lease shall not include terms governing credit card processing services or fees, which shall be the subject of a separate agreement between the lessee of the credit card terminal and the processing service provider.

(B) The lease shall clearly disclose that the lessee has no obligation to contract or negotiate with the lessor, or any affiliate, for processing services or fees.

(C) A lessor shall not condition the terms of the lease, or increase the total cost to lease or purchase the credit card terminal, based on whether the lessee agrees to contract with the lessor, or any affiliate, for processing services.

(4) Contact information. The lease shall clearly and conspicuously identify the lessor of the credit card terminal and the name, mailing address, telephone number, and relationship to the lessor of:

(A) the person to whom the lessee is required to make payments for the credit card terminal;

(B) the person whom the lessee should contact with questions or problems concerning the credit card terminal;

(C) the person to whom the lessee should deliver the credit card terminal for return or repair; and

(D) the sales representative or other person acting with actual or apparent authority on behalf of the lessor to solicit the lease.

(5) Record keeping. A lessor shall retain the following information in electronic format or hard copy for not less than four years after the lease ends:

(A) the lease; and

(B) a record that establishes the lessor's original purchase price for the credit card terminal or, if the lessor is the manufacturer of the credit card terminal, its total cost of manufacture.

(6) Prohibited provisions.

(A) If the judicial forum chosen by the parties to the lease is a forum that would not otherwise have jurisdiction over the lessee, the choice is not enforceable.

(B) A lessor shall not collect any charge or fee for business personal property tax on the credit card terminal unless the tax is actually imposed.

(7) Duty to provide lease; right to cancel.

(A) A lessor shall have the duty to provide a copy of the executed lease to the lessee.

(B) A lessee shall have the right to cancel a lease not later than 45 days after the lessor provides a copy of the executed lease to the lessee.

§ 2482j. VIOLATIONS

A person who violates this subchapter commits an unfair and deceptive act in trade and commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

Sec. 2. RULEMAKING

On or before October 1, 2018, the Attorney General shall initiate rulemaking to implement the provisions of this act, including rules to govern minimum disclosure and formatting requirements.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 260.

An act relating to funding the cleanup of State waters.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Bray for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee * * *

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that for the purposes of this section and Sec. 2 of this act:

(1) Within Vermont there are 7,100 miles of rivers and streams and 812 lakes and ponds of at least five acres in size.

(2) Current assessment of State waters or water segments indicates that there are:

(A) 101 waters or water segments that do not meet the State's water quality standards for at least one criterion and require a plan for cleanup;

(B) 114 waters or water segments that are impaired due to a pollutant and that do have a current cleanup plan, but which may not be meeting water quality standards;

(C) 114 waters or water segments that are stressed, meaning that there are one or more factors or influences that prohibit the water from maintaining a higher quality; and

(D) at least 56 waters that are altered due to aquatic nuisance species, meaning that one or more of the designated uses of the water are prohibited due to the presence of aquatic nuisance species.

(3) In 2015, the General Assembly enacted 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 64, An Act Relating to Improving the Quality of State Waters (Act 64), for the purpose, among others, of providing mechanisms, staffing, and financing

necessary for the State to achieve and maintain compliance with the Vermont Water Quality Standards for all State waters.

(4) Act 64 directed the State Treasurer to recommend to the General Assembly a long-term mechanism for financing water quality improvement in the State, including proposed revenue sources for water quality improvement programs.

(5) The State Treasurer submitted a Clean Water Report in January 2017 that included:

(A) an estimate that over 20 years it would cost \$2.3 billion to achieve compliance with water quality requirements;

(B) a projection that revenue available for water quality over the 20-year period would be approximately \$1.06 billion, leaving a 20-year total funding gap of \$1.3 billion;

(C) an estimate of annual compliance costs of \$115.6 million, which, after accounting for projected revenue, would leave a funding gap of \$48.5 million to pay for the costs of compliance with the first tier of federal and State water quality requirements; and

(D) a financing plan to provide more than \$25 million in additional State funds for water quality programs.

(6) After determining that a method to achieve equitable and effective long-term funding methods to support clean water efforts in Vermont was necessary, the General Assembly established in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 26 the Working Group on Water Quality Funding to develop draft legislation to accomplish this purpose, but the Working Group on Water Quality Funding failed to comply with its statutory charge.

(7) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) testified to the General Assembly that the State of Vermont was overdue in establishing a long-term revenue source to support water quality improvement that the EPA required of Vermont in the accountability framework of the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load plan.

(8) To ensure that the State has sufficient funds to clean and protect the State's waters so that they will continue to provide their integral and inherent environmental and economic benefits, the State should commit to achieving what the Act 73 Working Group on Water Quality failed to accomplish by requiring the Clean Water Board and a legislative study committee to recommend separately to the General Assembly draft legislation to establish equitable and effective long-term funding methods to support clean water efforts in Vermont.

Sec. 2. LEGISLATIVE CLEAN WATER PLANNING, FUNDING, AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created the Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee to recommend to the General Assembly draft legislation to establish an equitable and effective long-term funding method for:

(1) financing the necessary water quality programs and projects that will remediate, improve, and protect the quality of the waters of the State;

(2) coordinating water quality financing in the State;

(3) planning for the water quality financing needs of the State; and

(4) ensuring accountability of the State's efforts to clean up impaired waters, maintain or achieve the Vermont Water Quality Standards in all waters, and prevent the future degradation of waters.

(b) Membership. The Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall be composed of the following six members:

(1) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations or designee;

(2) the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations or designee;

(3) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy or designee;

(4) the Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife or designee;

(5) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance or designee; and

(6) the Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means or designee.

(c) Powers and duties. The Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall study the following issues:

(1) Whether and how the State should establish an independent authority to coordinate, plan, and finance water quality programs and projects across State government.

(2) How to develop a financing plan for water quality programs and projects in the State that will generate revenue sufficient to fund the following State obligations:

(A) federally required or State-required cleanup plans for individual waters or water segments, such as total maximum daily load plans;

(B) the requirements of 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 64; and

(C) the Agency of Natural Resources' Combined Sewer Overflow Rule.

(3)(A) How the State will raise the revenue or reduce existing expenditures to enable an equivalent level of support necessary to fund fully a financing plan for water quality that:

(i) meets the State's obligations;

(ii) maintains a water quality budget that is not less than the funding provided in fiscal year 2019 and that is capable of meeting an equivalent level of support, adjusted for inflation, for fiscal years 2020 through 2024; and

(iii) includes how a per parcel fee or other fee shall be assessed to property owners in a manner that corresponds to the effect of the parcel on water quality.

(B) In determining how a fee will be assessed to a property, the Committee shall consider whether the fee should account for:

(i) the size of the parcel;

(ii) the location of the parcel;

(iii) whether the parcel or use of the parcel contributes to an impairment of a water of the State or otherwise adversely affects water quality;

(iv) the surface coverage of the parcel, including the amount of impervious surface on the parcel, the amount of cropland or forestland on the parcel, or the number of residential, commercial, or industrial structures on the parcel;

(v) stormwater treatment practices or other water quality measures implemented on the parcel;

(vi) whether to provide credits or reduced charges for payment of a municipal stormwater utility fee or other similar water quality charge; and

(vii) whether the enforcement history or continuing violation of a parcel owner shall be a basis for an adjustment to a fee.

(4) How the State would most efficiently assess and collect a fee on property owners contributing to water quality issues in the State.

(5) Whether the State should adopt by rule a system of priorities for issuance of water quality grants or other financing from the Clean Water Fund and other State-administered financing programs, including whether priorities should be adjusted based on:

(A) the condition of the waters affected by the project, activity, or program;

(B) whether a project will address water quality issues identified in a basin plan;

(C) whether the project will abate or control pollution that is causing or may cause a threat to public health;

(D) whether the project will address an emergency situation affecting or constituting a threat to the environment or the public health, safety, or welfare;

(E) whether the project will address an agricultural water quality issue for which other sources of funds are unavailable;

(F) the fiscal integrity and sustainability of the project, including whether the project is a cost-effective alternative when compared to other alternatives;

(G) if the project removes a pollutant by which the water or waters affected by the project are impaired, the cost-effectiveness of the project at removing that pollutant; and

(H) income or financial resources available to an applicant to conduct the proposed project.

(6) How the State should maintain accountability of the efforts of the State to clean up impaired waters, maintain and achieve the Vermont Water Quality Standards in all waters, and prevent the future degradation of waters.

(d) Assistance. The Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall have the administrative, technical, legal, and fiscal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office. The Committee shall also be entitled to seek financial, technical, and scientific input or services from the Office of the State Treasurer, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Center for Geographic Information Services, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Department of Taxes.

(e) Report. On or before November 15, 2018, the Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall submit to the General Assembly draft legislation that addresses the issues set forth under subsection (c) of this section.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Office of Legislative Council shall call the first meeting of the Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee to occur on or before August 1, 2018.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair or co-chairs from among its members at its first meeting.

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

(4) The Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall cease to exist on February 1, 2019.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

* * * Clean Water Board * * *

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 1389 is amended to read:

§ 1389. CLEAN WATER FUND BOARD

(a) Creation.

(1) There is created the Clean Water Fund Board which that shall:

(A) be responsible and accountable for advising the General Assembly regarding planning, coordinating, and financing of the remediation, improvement, and protection of the quality of State waters;

(B) recommend to the Secretary of Administration expenditures General Assembly:

(i) appropriations from the Clean Water Fund, including appropriate block grant amounts from the Agency of Natural Resources' River Basin Block Grant Program; and

(ii) clean water projects to be funded by capital appropriations.

(2) The Clean Water Fund Board shall be attached to the Agency of Administration for administrative purposes.

(b) Organization of the Board. The Clean Water Fund Board shall be composed of:

(1) the Secretary of Administration or designee;

(2) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;

(3) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee;

(4) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee;

(5) the Secretary of Transportation or designee; and

(6) four members of the public, who are not legislators, with expertise in one or more of the following subject matters: public management, civil engineering, agriculture, ecology, wetlands, stormwater system management, forestry, transportation, law, banking, finance, and investment, to be appointed as follows:

(A) the Speaker of the House shall appoint two members of the public; and

(B) the Committee on Committees shall appoint two members of the public.

(c) Officers; committees; rules.

(1) The Clean Water Fund Board shall annually elect a chair from its members Secretary of Administration shall serve as the Chair of the Board. The Clean Water Fund Board may elect additional officers from its members, establish committees or subcommittees, and adopt procedural rules as necessary and appropriate to perform its work.

(2) Members of the Board 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 paid from the budget of the Agency of Administration for attendance of meetings of the Board.

(d) Powers and duties of the Clean Water Fund Board. The Clean Water Fund Board shall have the following powers and authority:

(1) Annually, on or before December 15, the Clean Water Board shall submit to the General Assembly a plan for the appropriation of all State water quality revenues in a manner that:

(A) maintains a water quality budget that is not less than the funding provided in fiscal year 2019 and that is capable of meeting an equivalent level of support, adjusted for inflation, for fiscal years 2020 through 2024; and

(B) adequately funds the following State obligations in the subsequent fiscal years:

(i) federally required or State-required cleanup plans for individual waters or water segments, such as total maximum daily load plans;

(ii) the requirements of 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 64; and

(iii) the Agency of Natural Resources' Combined Sewer Overflow Rule.

(2) The Clean Water Fund Board shall recommend to the Secretary of Administration General Assembly the appropriate allocation of funds from the

Clean Water Fund for the purposes of developing the State budget required to be submitted to the General Assembly under 32 V.S.A. § 306 financing the Board's recommended annual financing plan. The recommendations shall include a recommended appropriation to the Agency of Natural Resources' River Basin Block Grant Program under section 1389c of this title. All recommendations from the Board should be intended to achieve the greatest water quality gain for the investment.

~~(2)~~(3) The Clean Water Fund Board may pursue and accept grants, gifts, donations, or other funding from any public or private source and may administer such grants, gifts, donations, or funding consistent with the terms of the grant, gift, or donation.

~~(3)~~(4) The Clean Water Fund Board shall:

(A) establish a process by which watershed organizations, State agencies, and other interested parties may propose water quality projects or programs for financing from the Clean Water Fund;

(B) develop an annual revenue estimate and proposed budget for the Clean Water Fund;

(C) establish measures for determining progress and effectiveness of expenditures for clean water restoration efforts;

(D) issue the annual Clean Water Investment Report required under section 1389a of this title; and

(E) solicit, consult with, and accept public comment from organizations interested in improving water quality in Vermont regarding recommendations under this subsection (d) for the allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund.

(e) Priorities.

(1) In making recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Board shall prioritize:

(A) funding to programs and projects that address sources of water pollution in waters listed as impaired on the list of waters established by 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d);

(B) funding to projects that address sources of water pollution identified as a significant contributor of water quality pollution, including financial assistance to grant recipients at the initiation of a funded project;

(C) funding to programs or projects that address or repair riparian conditions that increase the risk of flooding or pose a threat to life or property;

(D) assistance required for State and municipal compliance with stormwater requirements for highways and roads;

(E) funding for education and outreach regarding the implementation of water quality requirements, including funding for education, outreach, demonstration, and access to tools for the implementation of the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, as adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(F) funding for innovative or alternative technologies or practices designed to improve water quality or reduce sources of pollution to surface waters, including funding for innovative nutrient removal technologies and community-based methane digesters that utilize manure, wastewater, and food residuals to produce energy;

(G) funding to purchase agricultural land in order to take that land out of practice when the State water quality requirements cannot be remediated through agricultural Best Management Practices; and

(H) funding to municipalities for the establishment and operation of stormwater utilities.

(2) In developing its recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Clean Water Fund Board shall, during the first three years of its existence and within the priorities established under subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), prioritize awards or assistance to municipalities for municipal compliance with water quality requirements, and to municipalities for the establishment and operation of stormwater utilities.

(3) In developing its recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Board shall, after satisfaction of the priorities established under subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), attempt to provide for equitable apportionment of awards from the Fund to all regions of the State and for control of all sources of point and non-point sources of pollution in the State.

(f) Assistance. The Clean Water Fund Board shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Administration, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Agency of Transportation, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for those issues or services within the jurisdiction of the respective agency. The cost of the services provided by agency staff shall be paid from the budget of the agency providing the staff services.

(g) Terms; appointed members. Members who are appointed to the Clean Water Board shall be appointed for terms of four years, except initially,

appointments shall be made such that one member appointed by the Speaker shall be appointed for a term of two years, and one member appointed by the Committee on Committees shall be appointed for a term of one year. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled for the remaining period of the term in the same manner as initial appointments.

Sec. 4. CLEAN WATER BOARD RECOMMENDED DRAFT
LEGISLATION; WATER QUALITY FUNDING METHOD

(a) On or before November 15, 2018, the Clean Water Board shall submit to the General Assembly draft legislation to establish an equitable and effective long-term funding method for:

(1) financing the necessary water quality programs and projects that will remediate, improve, and protect the quality of the waters of the State;

(2) coordinating water quality financing in the State;

(3) planning for the water quality financing needs of the State; and

(4) ensuring accountability of the State's efforts to clean up impaired waters, maintain or achieve the Vermont Water Quality Standards in all waters, and prevent the future degradation of waters.

(b) In developing the draft legislation required under subsection (a) of this section, the Clean Water Board shall study the following issues:

(1) Whether and how the State should establish an independent authority to coordinate, plan, and finance water quality programs and projects across State government.

(2) How to develop a financing plan for water quality programs and projects in the State that will generate revenue sufficient to fund the following State obligations:

(A) federally required or State-required cleanup plans for individual waters or water segments, such as total maximum daily load plans;

(B) the requirements of 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 64; and

(C) the Agency of Natural Resources' Combined Sewer Overflow Rule.

(3)(A) How the State will raise the revenue or reduce existing State expenditures to enable an equivalent level of support necessary to fund fully a financing plan for water quality that:

(i) meets the State's obligations;

(ii) maintains a water quality budget that is not less than the funding provided in fiscal year 2019 and that is capable of meeting an

equivalent level of support, adjusted for inflation, for fiscal years 2020 through 2024; and

(iii) includes how a per parcel fee or other fee shall be assessed to property owners in a manner that corresponds to the effect of the parcel on water quality.

(B) In determining how a fee will be assessed to a property, the Committee shall consider whether the fee should account for:

(i) the size of the parcel;

(ii) the location of the parcel;

(iii) whether the parcel or use of the parcel contributes to an impairment of a water of the State or otherwise adversely affects water quality;

(iv) the surface coverage of the parcel, including the amount of impervious surface on the parcel, the amount of cropland or forestland on the parcel, or the number of residential, commercial, or industrial structures on the parcel;

(v) stormwater treatment practices or other water quality measures implemented on the parcel;

(vi) whether to provide credits or reduced charges for payment of a municipal stormwater utility fee or other similar water quality charge; and

(vii) whether the enforcement history or continuing violation of a parcel owner shall be a basis for an adjustment to a fee.

(4) How the State would most efficiently assess and collect a fee on property owners contributing to water quality issues in the State.

(5) Whether the State should adopt by rule a system of priorities for issuance of water quality grants or other financing from the Clean Water Fund and other State-administered financing programs, including whether priorities should be adjusted based on:

(A) the condition of the waters affected by the project, activity, or program;

(B) whether a project will address water quality issues identified in a basin plan;

(C) whether the project will abate or control pollution that is causing or may cause a threat to public health;

(D) whether the project will address an emergency situation affecting or constituting a threat to the environment or the public health, safety, or welfare;

(E) whether the project will address an agricultural water quality issue for which other sources of funds are unavailable;

(F) the fiscal integrity and sustainability of the project, including whether the project is a cost-effective alternative when compared to other alternatives;

(G) if the project removes a pollutant by which the water or waters affected by the project are impaired, the cost-effectiveness of the project at removing that pollutant; and

(H) income or financial resources available to an applicant to conduct the proposed project.

(6) How the State should maintain accountability of the efforts of the State to clean up impaired waters, maintain and achieve the Vermont Water Quality Standards in all waters, and prevent the future degradation of waters.

* * * ANR River Basin Block Grant * * *

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 1389c is added to read:

§ 1389c. RIVER BASIN BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

(a) Establishment. There is established within the Agency of Natural Resources the River Basin Block Grant Program to fund annually in each of the river basins of the State water quality programs and projects that restore and protect the waters of the State.

(b) Eligible entities; programs and projects.

(1) River basin cooperative councils, regional planning commissions, natural resources conservation districts, nonprofit associations, citizen groups, and municipalities are eligible to apply for a river basin block grant.

(2) One or more of following shall be eligible for funding under a block grant issued under this section:

(A) a water quality program or project identified in the tactical basin plan for a river basin;

(B) a water quality program or project to fund compliance with one or more of the following:

(i) a federally required or State-required cleanup plan for individual waters or water segments, such as total maximum daily load plans;

(ii) the requirements of 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 64;

(iii) the requirements of 6 V.S.A. chapter 215; and

(iv) the Agency of Natural Resources' Combined Sewer Overflow Rule.

(c) Priorities. The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall grant river basin block grants under this section to eligible parties for eligible projects on the basis of need within a river basin as determined according to a system of priorities adopted by procedure by the Secretary. In developing the system of priorities, the Secretary shall give additional weight to the following factors:

(1) whether the applicant is a river basin cooperative council;

(2) the need within a river basin for funding or administrative capacity to implement water quality programs or projects;

(3) whether a proposed program or project is identified within a tactical basin plan;

(4) the estimated nutrient pollutant reduction potential of the proposed program or project;

(5) the cost effectiveness of the program or project at removing the pollutant when compared to other alternatives; and

(6) the readiness of the program or project for timely implementation.

(d) Administrative costs. Each river basin block grant shall include funds eligible for use by the recipient for administrative costs or costs of providing technical services.

(e) Application. The Secretary of Natural Resources may establish requirements for application for a river basin block grant, including the manner of application and timing of applications.

(f) Performance measures. To ensure accountability of block grant recipients, each river basin block grant shall include performance measures.

(g) Report. As part of the Clean Water Investment report required under section 1389a of this title, the Clean Water Board shall report on the implementation of the River Basin Block Grant Program, including:

(1) the name and location of each river basin cooperative council sponsored project;

(2) the entity or organization implementing each river basin cooperative council sponsored project;

(3) the estimated reduction in the pollutant targeted for reduction or remediation by each river basin cooperative council sponsored project;

(4) the cost of each river basin cooperative council sponsored project; and

(5) administrative costs for each river basin cooperative council sponsored project as compared to all other costs of the project.

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 1389d is added to read:

§ 1389d. RIVER BASIN COOPERATIVE COUNCILS

(a) Formation. The State encourages the formation of River Basin Cooperative Councils within each river basin of the State to assist in the coordination, planning, implementation, and administration of water quality programs and projects within a river basin.

(b) Composition. A River Basin Cooperative Council shall comprise at a minimum the following members:

(1) the Agency of Natural Resources' tactical basin planner for the river basin;

(2) a representative of the regional planning commission or commissions in which the basin is located;

(3) a representative of the natural resource conservation district or districts in which the basin is located; and

(4) a representative of at least one community organization the primary purpose of which is water quality improvement in the river basin in which the organization is located.

(c) Authority; eligibility. A River Basin Cooperative Council shall have the authority to:

(1) apply for a river basin block grant under section 1389c of this title;

(2) allocate funds received in a river basin block grant to other entities, projects, or programs within the river basin, provided that:

(A) the recipient entity, project, or program is an eligible entity under the River Basin Block Grant Program;

(B) the funds are allocated in a manner consistent with the Agency of Natural Resources' system of priorities established under section 1389c of this title; and

(C) the River Basin Cooperative Council requires performance measures and maintains accountability for any funds allocated to an entity, project, or program; and

(3) implement or administer eligible water quality programs or projects funded by a river basin block grant.

(d) Limitation. Only one River Basin Cooperative Council shall be formed for each river basin of the State. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall approve a River Basin Cooperative Council for each river basin.

(e) Report. Annually, each River Basin Cooperative Council shall report to

the Secretary of Natural Resources on the implementation of any river basin block grant it receives. The report shall include the following:

(1) the name and location of each river basin cooperative council sponsored project;

(2) the entity or organization implementing each river basin cooperative council sponsored project;

(3) the estimated reduction in the pollutant targeted for reduction or remediation by each river basin cooperative council sponsored project;

(4) the cost of each river basin cooperative council sponsored project; and

(5) administrative costs for each river basin cooperative council sponsored project as compared to all other costs of the project.

* * * Citizen Right of Action * * *

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. chapter 205 is added to read:

CHAPTER 205. CITIZEN RIGHT OF ACTION

§ 8055. CITIZEN RIGHT OF ACTION

(a) Suit authorized. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a person may commence a civil action for equitable or declaratory relief on the person's own behalf against one or more of the following persons:

(1) any person who is alleged to be in violation of any statute, permit, certification, rule, permit condition, prohibition, or order set forth, issued, or required under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215;

(2) any person subject to regulation under this chapter who is alleged to be in violation of any statute, permit, certification, rule, permit condition, prohibition, or order set forth, issued, or required under chapter 47 of this title;

(3) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets when there is an alleged failure of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to perform any act or duty under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215 that is not discretionary for the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; and

(4) the Secretary of Natural Resources when there is an alleged failure of the Agency of Natural Resources to perform any act or duty under chapter 47 of this title that is not discretionary for the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Agency of Natural Resources.

(b) Prerequisite to commencement of action. A person shall not commence an action under subsection (a) of this section prior to 60 days after the plaintiff

has given notice of the violation to:

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets for an action initiated under subdivision (a)(1) or (3) of this section;

(2) the Secretary of Natural Resources for an action initiated under subdivision (a)(2) or (4) of this section; and

(3) any person who is alleged to be in violation of a statute, permit, certification, rule, permit condition, prohibition, or order set forth, issued, or required under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215 or under chapter 47 of this title.

(c) Action prohibited. A person shall not commence an action under subsection (a) of this section under either of the following circumstances:

(1) if the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Attorney General has commenced and is diligently prosecuting a civil or criminal action to require compliance with a statute, permit, certification, rule, permit condition, prohibition, or order set forth, issued, or required under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215 or under chapter 47 of this title; or

(2) if the alleged violator is diligently proceeding with complying with an assurance of discontinuance, corrective action, cease and desist order, or emergency administrative order issued under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215 or under chapter 201 of this title.

(d) Venue. A person shall bring an action under subsection (a) of this section in the Environmental Division of the Superior Court.

(e) Joinder; necessary parties.

(1) If a person brings an action in the Environmental Division of the Superior Court under subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall be deemed a necessary party to the action and shall be joined as a party under Rule 19 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

(2) If a person brings an action in the Environmental Division of the Superior Court under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall be deemed a necessary party to the action and shall be joined as a party under Rule 19 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

(f) Intervention. In any action under subsection (a) of this section:

(1) Any person may intervene as a matter of right when the person seeking intervention claims an interest relating to the subject of the action and he or she is so situated that the disposition of the action may, as a practical matter, impair or impede his or her ability to protect that interest, unless the

Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or the Secretary of Natural Resources shows that the applicant's interest is adequately represented by existing parties.

(2) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Attorney General may intervene as a matter of right as a party to represent its interests.

(g) Notice of action. A person bringing an action under subsection (a) of this section shall provide the notice required under subsection (b) of this section in writing. The notice shall be served on the alleged violator in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice to the Secretary shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice shall include a brief description of the alleged violation and identification of the statute, permit, certification, rule, permit condition, prohibition, or order that is the subject of the violation.

(h) Attorney's fees; costs. The Environmental Division of the Superior Court may award costs, including reasonable attorney's fees and fees for expert witnesses, to a person bringing an action under subsection (a) of this section when the court determines that the award is appropriate.

(i) Rights preserved. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair or diminish any common law or statutory right or remedy that may be available to any person. Rights and remedies created by this section shall be in addition to any other right or remedy, including the authority of the State to bring an enforcement action separate from an action brought under this section. No determination made by a court in an action maintained under this section, to which the State has not been a party, shall be binding upon the State in any enforcement action.

* * * Required Agricultural Practices; Healthy Soils * * *

Sec. 8. 6 V.S.A. § 4810a is amended to read:

§ 4810a. REQUIRED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES; REVISION

(a) ~~On or before September 15, 2016, the~~ The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall ~~file under 3 V.S.A. § 841 a final proposal of a rule amending~~ amend by rule the required agricultural practices in order to improve water quality in the State, assure practices on all farms eliminate adverse impacts to water quality, and implement the small farm certification program required by section 4871 of this title. At a minimum, the ~~amendments to the~~ required agricultural practices shall:

* * *

(4) Establish standards for nutrient management on farms, including:

(A) required nutrient management planning on all farms that manage agricultural wastes;

(B) recommended required practices incorporated within a nutrient management plan for improving and maintaining soil quality and healthy soils in order to increase the capacity of soil to retain water, improve flood resiliency, reduce sedimentation, reduce reliance on fertilizers and pesticides, and prevent agricultural stormwater runoff, including requirements for tillage; and

(C) methods for complying with individual load allocations, if any, for a farm if required under a total maximum daily load plan or other remediation plan for an impaired water.

* * *

Sec. 9. IMPLEMENTATION

On or before July 1, 2019, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall revise the Required Agricultural Practices to include the practices for improving and maintaining soil quality and healthy soils required under 6 V.S.A. § 4810a(a)(4).

* * * Joint Lake Carmi Pilot Project * * *

Sec. 10. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS JOINT LAKE CARMİ PILOT PROGRAM FOR PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Commercial feed” shall have the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 323.

(2) “Custom formula feed” shall have the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 323.

(3) “Farm” means a parcel or parcels of land used for farming.

(4) “Farming” shall have the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6001.

(5) “Fertilizer” shall have the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 363.

(6) “Manure” shall have the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 4802.

(7) “Total nutrient sources” mean the sum of all commercial feed, custom formula feed, fertilizer, or manure used or produced by a farm.

(b) Farm-specific nutrient management.

(1) On or before July 1, 2018, the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall

develop individual water quality remediation plans for each farm within the Lake Carmi watershed. The water quality remediation plan shall:

(A) establish the annual tonnage of total nutrient sources that a farm may import, produce on, or apply to land in a year without increasing the phosphorus load in the waters to which the non-point source pollution from the farm runs off;

(B) specify measures or management practices that a farm may be required to implement in order to prevent an increase of phosphorus loads in the waters to which the non-point source pollution from the farm runs off; and

(C) require a farm to cover crop fields in the winter.

(2) Beginning on August 1, 2018, the owner or operator of a farm within the Lake Carmi watershed shall document the following on a monthly basis:

(A) the amount of total nutrient sources imported to, produced on, or applied to land in the prior 30 days on the farm; and

(B) implementation or administration of measures or management practices that a farm may be required to implement in order to prevent an increase of phosphorus loads.

(3) The owner or operator of a farm within the Lake Carmi watershed shall submit to the Secretary of Natural Resources the monthly documentation required under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(c) Monitoring. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall conduct monitoring of the waters to which the non-point source pollution from each farm within the Lake Carmi watershed runs off.

(d) Best management practices. If monitoring conducted under subsection (c) of this section indicates increasing phosphorus loads in the waters due to non-point source pollution from a farm within the Lake Carmi watershed, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall require the farm to implement best management practices under 6 V.S.A. § 4810 to reduce runoff from the farm.

(e) Enforcement; appeal.

(1) The Secretary of Natural Resources may take action under 10 V.S.A. chapter 201 to enforce the requirements of this section.

(2) A person may appeal an act or decision of the Secretary under this section, excluding enforcement actions under 10 V.S.A. chapter 201 or 220.

(f) Term. A farm subject to the requirements of this section shall implement an individual water quality remediation plan until January 1, 2021,

provided that the Secretary of Natural Resources may, by order, require a farm to continue implementation of the plan.

* * * ANR Report on Future Farming Practices * * *

Sec. 11. AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS
REPORT ON FARMING PRACTICES IN VERMONT

On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall submit to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Agriculture and to the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Agriculture and Forestry a report regarding how to revise farming practice in Vermont in a manner that mitigates existing environmental impacts while maintaining economic viability. The report shall include recommendations for:

(1) building healthy soils;

(2) reducing agriculturally based pollution in areas of high pollution, stressed, or impaired waters;

(3) establishing a carrying capacity or maximum number of livestock that the land used for nutrient application on a farm can support without contribution of nutrients to a water;

(4) how to provide financial and technical support to facilitate the transition by farms to less-polluting practices, including:

(A) cover cropping;

(B) reduced tillage or no tillage;

(C) transition out of dairy farming through a whole-herd buyout program;

(D) how to accelerate the implementation of best management practices (BMPs);

(E) how to evaluate the effectiveness of using riparian buffers in excess of 25 feet;

(F) how to accelerate the use of direct manure injection;

(G) how to use crop rotations to build soil health, including limits on the planting of continuous corn; and

(H) how to eliminate, or at least reduce, the use of herbicides in the termination of cover crops.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Collamore for the Committee on Agriculture.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee * * *

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE CLEAN WATER PLANNING, FUNDING, AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created the Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee to recommend to the General Assembly draft legislation to establish an equitable and effective long-term funding method for:

(1) financing the necessary water quality programs and projects that will remediate, improve, and protect the quality of the waters of the State;

(2) coordinating water quality financing in the State;

(3) planning for the water quality financing needs of the State; and

(4) ensuring accountability of the State's efforts to clean up impaired waters, maintain or achieve the Vermont Water Quality Standards in all waters, and prevent the future degradation of waters.

(b) Membership. The Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall be composed of the following eight members:

(1) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations or designee;

(2) the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations or designee;

(3) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy or designee;

(4) the Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife or designee;

(5) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance or designee;

(6) the Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means or designee;

(7) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture or designee; and

(8) the Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry or designee.

(c) Powers and duties.

(1) The Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall study how to develop a financing plan for water quality programs and projects in the State that will generate revenue sufficient to fund the following State obligations:

(A) federally required or State-required cleanup plans for individual waters or water segments, such as total maximum daily load plans;

(B) the requirements of 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 64; and

(C) the Agency of Natural Resources' Combined Sewer Overflow Rule.

(2) In developing a financing plan for water quality programs and projects in the State under this subsection, the Committee shall:

(A) evaluate implementation of a per parcel fee or other revenue source that can be assessed equitably on all property in the State, based on the impact or effect of the property on water quality;

(B) base its revenue recommendation on maintaining a water quality budget that is not less than the funding provided in fiscal year 2019 and that is capable of meeting an equivalent level of support, adjusted for inflation, for fiscal years 2020 through 2024; and

(C) review whether the State Treasurer's estimate of State funding needs in the Clean Water Report in January 2017 should be revised or updated after fiscal 2024 due to economic conditions or due to the need to reflect the most effective measures to improve water quality.

(d) Assistance. The Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall have the administrative, technical, legal, and fiscal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office. The Committee shall also be entitled to seek financial, technical, and scientific input or services from the Office of the State Treasurer, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Center for Geographic Information Services, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Department of Taxes.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2019, the Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall submit to the General Assembly draft legislation that addresses the issues set forth under subsection (c) of this section. The Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall cease to exist on February 1, 2019.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Office of Legislative Council shall call the first meeting of the Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee to occur on or before August 1, 2018.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair or co-chairs from among its members at its first meeting.

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

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Clean Water Planning, Funding, and Implementation Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

* * * Clean Water Fund Board * * *

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 1389 is amended to read:

§ 1389. CLEAN WATER FUND BOARD

(a) Creation.

(1) There is created the Clean Water Fund Board which that shall recommend to the Secretary of Administration expenditures:

(A) appropriations from the Clean Water Fund; and

(B) clean water projects to be funded by capital appropriations.

(2) The Clean Water Fund Board shall be attached to the Agency of Administration for administrative purposes.

(b) Organization of the Board. The Clean Water Fund Board shall be composed of:

(1) the Secretary of Administration or designee;

(2) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;

(3) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee;

(4) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee;

(5) the Secretary of Transportation or designee; and

(6) two members of the public who are not legislators, one of whom shall represent a municipality subject to the municipal separate storm sewer

system (MS4) permit and one of whom shall represent a municipality that is not subject to the MS4 permit, appointed as follows:

(A) the Speaker of the House shall appoint the member from an MS4 municipality; and

(B) the Committee on Committees shall appoint the member who is not from an MS4 municipality.

(c) Officers; committees; rules.

(1) The Clean Water Fund Board shall annually elect a chair from its members Secretary of Administration shall serve as the Chair of the Board. The Clean Water Fund Board may elect additional officers from its members, establish committees or subcommittees, and adopt procedural rules as necessary and appropriate to perform its work.

(2) Members of the Board 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 paid from the budget of the Agency of Administration for attendance of meetings of the Board.

(d) Powers and duties of the Clean Water Fund Board. The Clean Water Fund Board shall have the following powers and authority:

(1) The Clean Water Fund Board shall recommend to the Secretary of Administration the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund for the purposes of developing the State budget required to be submitted to the General Assembly under 32 V.S.A. § 306. All recommendations from the Board should be intended to achieve the greatest water quality gain for the investment. The recommendations of the Clean Water Fund Board shall be open to inspection and copying under the Public Records Act, and the Clean Water Fund Board shall submit to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Finance, on Agriculture, and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Appropriations, on Ways and Means, on Agriculture and Forestry, and on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife a copy of any recommendations provided to the Governor.

(2) The Clean Water Fund Board may pursue and accept grants, gifts, donations, or other funding from any public or private source and may administer such grants, gifts, donations, or funding consistent with the terms of the grant, gift, or donation.

(3) The Clean Water Fund Board shall:

(A) establish a process by which watershed organizations, State agencies, and other interested parties may propose water quality projects or programs for financing from the Clean Water Fund;

(B) develop an annual revenue estimate and proposed budget for the Clean Water Fund;

(C) establish measures for determining progress and effectiveness of expenditures for clean water restoration efforts;

(D) issue the annual Clean Water Investment Report required under section 1389a of this title; and

(E) solicit, consult with, and accept public comment from organizations interested in improving water quality in Vermont regarding recommendations under this subsection (d) for the allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund.

(e) Priorities.

(1) In making recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Board shall prioritize:

(A) funding to programs and projects that address sources of water pollution in waters listed as impaired on the list of waters established by 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d);

(B) funding to projects that address sources of water pollution identified as a significant contributor of water quality pollution, including financial assistance to grant recipients at the initiation of a funded project;

(C) funding to programs or projects that address or repair riparian conditions that increase the risk of flooding or pose a threat to life or property;

(D) assistance required for State and municipal compliance with stormwater requirements for highways and roads;

(E) funding for education and outreach regarding the implementation of water quality requirements, including funding for education, outreach, demonstration, and access to tools for the implementation of the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, as adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(F) funding for innovative or alternative technologies or practices designed to improve water quality or reduce sources of pollution to surface waters, including funding for innovative nutrient removal technologies and community-based methane digesters that utilize manure, wastewater, and food residuals to produce energy;

(G) funding to purchase agricultural land in order to take that land out of practice when the State water quality requirements cannot be remediated through agricultural Best Management Practices; and

(H) funding to municipalities for the establishment and operation of stormwater utilities.

(2) In developing its recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Clean Water Fund Board shall, during the first three years of its existence and within the priorities established under subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), prioritize awards or assistance to municipalities for municipal compliance with water quality requirements, and to municipalities for the establishment and operation of stormwater utilities.

(3) In developing its recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Board shall, after satisfaction of the priorities established under subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), attempt to provide for equitable apportionment of awards from the Fund to all regions of the State and for control of all sources of point and ~~non-point~~ nonpoint sources of pollution in the State.

(f) Assistance. The Clean Water Fund Board shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Administration, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Agency of Transportation, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for those issues or services within the jurisdiction of the respective agency. The cost of the services provided by agency staff shall be paid from the budget of the agency providing the staff services.

(g) Terms; appointed members. Members who are appointed to the Clean Water Fund Board shall be appointed for terms of four years, except initial appointments shall be made such that the member appointed by the Speaker shall be appointed for a term of two years. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled for the remaining period of the term in the same manner as initial appointments.

Sec. 3. CLEAN WATER FUND BOARD FUNDING AND SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

On or before November 15, 2018, the Clean Water Fund Board shall report to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Finance, on Agriculture, and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Appropriations, on Ways and Means, on Agriculture and Forestry, and on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife on the following:

(1) A recommendation on the appropriate State share with respect to grants to support governmental and private obligations to comply with water quality improvement. In addition to this recommendation, the Board shall provide:

(A) an inventory of existing State grant and funding programs related to water quality improvement;

(B) the existing State share with respect to each grant or funding program identified in subdivision (A); and

(C) whether that existing State share is required by State or federal law and a reference to that legal requirement.

(2) A recommendation on how funding and services should be delivered to ensure compliance with the phosphorous reduction targets in the Lake Champlain total maximum daily load and the State's water quality objectives. At a minimum, the Board shall evaluate as a part of its recommendation a statewide clean water authority, a regional utility or service-delivery model, and a municipal model. The evaluation shall include an assessment of the ability of the entity to raise revenue, administer programs, and fund projects.

* * * Joint Lake Carmi Pilot Project * * *

Sec. 4. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGENCY OF
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS JOINT LAKE CARM
PILOT PROGRAM FOR PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT

(a) Farm-specific plans.

(1) On or before July 1, 2018, the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall contract with a third-party consultant to develop individual water quality remediation plans for each owner or operator of farmland within the Lake Carmi watershed.

(2) A water quality remediation plan shall:

(A) include an analysis of the soil phosphorus levels, the nutrient sources produced or imported to farmland to be applied on the land, the crop nutrient requirements, phosphorus index rating, tillage methods, land application of nutrients, methods and timing of nutrient application, and any other data necessary to ensure that the nutrient management plan for the farmland meets the State and federal requirements;

(B) specify measures or management practices that an owner or operator of farmland shall implement according to the nutrient management plan; and

(C) identify options available to owners or operators of farmland to protect their land in a manner that mitigates existing environmental impacts while maintaining economic viability or to provide alternatives when the costs of improving water quality exceed the value of the farmland.

(2) Beginning on May 1, 2018, the owner or operator of farmland within the Lake Carmi watershed shall document the following on an annual basis:

(A) the amount of total nutrient sources imported to, produced on, or applied to the farmland in the past year; and

(B) a summary of practices that an owner or operator of farmland has implemented in the last year in order to prevent an increase of phosphorus loads.

(b) Monitoring. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall conduct monitoring of the watershed to establish accountability for the non-point source pollution load into the Lake Carmi watershed.

(c) Best management practices. If monitoring conducted under subsection (c) of this section indicates increasing phosphorus loads in the waters due to non-point source pollution from farmland within the Lake Carmi watershed, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall require the owner or operator of the farmland to implement best management practices under 6 V.S.A. § 4810 to reduce runoff from the farmland.

* * * Report on Future Farming Practices * * *

Sec. 5. AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS
REPORT ON FARMING PRACTICES IN VERMONT

The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall convene a Nutrient Management Commission in order to review farming practices in Vermont and recommend ways to revise them in a manner that mitigates existing environmental impacts while maintaining economic viability. On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall submit to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Agriculture and to the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Agriculture and Forestry a report summarizing the recommendations of the Nutrient Management Commission. The report shall include potential strategies and timelines for implementing the following:

(1) building healthy soils;

(2) reducing agriculturally based pollution in areas of highly polluted, stressed, or impaired waters;

(3) establishing a carrying capacity or maximum number of livestock that the land used for nutrient application on a farm can support without contributing nutrients to a water;

(4) including whole-farm nutrient balancing principles into the nutrient management standards for farms in the State;

(5) ways to provide financial and technical support to facilitate the implementation by farms of less-polluting practices, including:

(A) cover cropping;

(B) reduced tillage or no tillage;

(C) options available to farms to protect their land in a manner that mitigates existing environmental impacts while maintaining economic viability or to provide alternatives when the costs of improving water quality exceed the value of the farm;

(D) ways to accelerate the implementation of best management practices (BMPs);

(E) ways to evaluate the effectiveness of using riparian buffers in excess of 25 feet;

(F) ways to accelerate the use of and accountability for direct manure injection;

(G) ways to use crop rotations to build soil health, including limits on the continuous planting of corn; and

(H) ways to eliminate, or at least reduce, the use of herbicides in the termination of cover crops.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 261.

An act relating to mitigating trauma and toxic stress during childhood by strengthening child and family resilience.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Purpose * * *

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this act to create a consistent family support system by enhancing opportunities to build child and family resilience for all families throughout the State that are experiencing childhood trauma and toxic stress.

While significant efforts to provide upstream services are already well under way in many parts of the State, better coordination is necessary to ensure that gaps in services are addressed and redundancies do not occur. Coordination of upstream services that are cost effective and either research based or research informed decrease the necessity for more substantial downstream services, including services for opioid addiction and other substance use disorders.

* * * Human Services Generally * * *

Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 3402 is added to read:

§ 3402. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Toxic stress” means strong, frequent, or prolonged experience of adversity without adequate support.

(2) “Trauma-informed” means a type of program, organization, or system that recognizes the widespread impact of trauma and potential paths for recovery; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved in a system; responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks actively to resist retraumatization and build resilience among the population served.

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 3403 is added to read:

§ 3403. EXPANSION OF SUPPORT SERVICES IN PEDIATRIC
PRIMARY CARE

The Commissioner for Children and Families, in collaboration with the State’s parent-child center network, shall implement a program linking pediatric primary care with support services in each county of the State. The Commissioner shall select at least one new county annually in which to implement a program based on regional need and available pediatric and parent-child center partners. The Commissioner may accept private grants and donations for the purpose of funding the expansion. Each county shall have at least one pediatric primary care and support service partnership on or before January 1, 2023.

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 3404 is added to read:

§ 3404. CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

The Departments for Children and Families and of Corrections shall make joint referrals as appropriate for children of incarcerated parents to existing programs within each child’s community that address childhood trauma, toxic stress, and resilience building.

Sec. 5. DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION

(a)(1) The position of Director of Prevention shall be established within the Agency of Human Services for a period of six fiscal years. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Director position is funded by repurposing existing expenditures and resources designated for substance use disorder, including opioid addiction, and related prevention activities.

(2) The Director shall direct the Agency's response on behalf of clients who have experienced childhood trauma and toxic stress, including:

(A) reducing or eliminating ongoing sources of childhood trauma and toxic stress;

(B) strengthening existing programs and establishing new programs within the Agency that build resilience among individuals who have experienced childhood trauma and toxic stress;

(C) providing advice and support to the Secretary of Human Services and facilitating communication and coordination among the Agency's departments with regard to childhood trauma, toxic stress, and the promotion of resilience building;

(D) training all Agency employees on childhood trauma, toxic stress, resilience building, and the Agency's Trauma-Informed System of Care policy and posting training opportunities for child care providers, afterschool program providers, educators, and health care providers on the Agency's website;

(E) collaborating with community partners to build consistency between trauma-informed systems that address medical and social service needs, including serving as a conduit between providers and the public;

(F) coordinating the Agency's approach to childhood trauma, toxic stress, and resilience building with any similar efforts occurring elsewhere in State government;

(G) providing support for and disseminating educational materials pertaining to the Agency's Building Flourishing Communities initiative;

(H) regularly meeting with the Child and Family Trauma Work Group; and

(I) ensuring that the Agency and its community partners are leveraging all available federal funds for services related to preventing and mitigating childhood trauma and toxic stress and building child and family resilience.

(b) The Director shall present updates on the progress of his or her work to

the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare in January of each year between 2019 and 2024, including any recommendations for legislative action.

(c) On or before January 15, 2024, the Director shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare summarizing the Director's achievements, existing gaps in trauma-informed services, and recommendations for future action.

Sec. 6. COORDINATED RESPONSE TO CHILDHOOD TRAUMA WITH JUDICIAL BRANCH

On or before January 15, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or designee and the Agency of Human Services' Director of Prevention shall jointly present an action plan to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare for better coordinating the Judicial and Executive Branches' approaches for preventing and mitigating childhood trauma and toxic stress and building child and family resilience, including any recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. 7. TRAUMA-INFORMED TRAINING FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

The Agency of Human Services' Director of Prevention, in consultation with stakeholders, shall develop and implement a plan to promote access to and training on the use of trauma-informed practices that build resilience among children and students for the employees of registered and licensed family child care homes, center-based child care and preschool programs, and afterschool programs. On or before January 15, 2019, the Director shall present information about the plan and its implementation to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare. "Trauma-informed" shall have the same meaning as in 33 V.S.A. § 3402.

Sec. 8. CHILD CARE AND COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM; EVALUATION

The Agency of Human Services' Director of Prevention shall develop a framework for evaluating the workforce, payment streams, and real costs associated with the State's child care system and community-based family support system. The framework shall indicate the most appropriate entity to conduct this evaluation as well as articulate the anticipated outcomes of the evaluation. The Director shall present the framework to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2019.

Sec. 9. SYSTEM EVALUATION

(a) The Commissioner of Health shall determine the appropriate methodology for evaluating the work of the Agency of Human Services related to childhood trauma, toxic stress, and resilience that shall include use of results-based accountability measures currently collected by the Agency. On or before January 1, 2019, the Commissioner shall submit the recommended evaluation methodology to the Director of Prevention and the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(b) The Director shall implement the Commissioner's recommended evaluation methodology for the purpose of understanding better the strengths and weaknesses of current efforts to address childhood trauma, toxic stress, and resilience statewide.

(c) As used in this section, "toxic stress" shall have the same meaning as in 33 V.S.A. § 3402.

* * * Health Care * * *

Sec. 10. BRIGHT FUTURES GUIDELINES; INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Bright Futures Guidelines shall serve as a bridge between clinical and community providers in a shared goal to promote healthy child and family development.

(b) The Bright Futures Guidelines shall be used as a resource in Vermont for all individuals and organizations that provide care and support services to children and families for the purpose of promoting healthy development and encouraging screening for social determinants of health.

(c) The Bright Futures Guidelines shall inform the work of the Agency of Human Services' Building Flourishing Communities initiative.

Sec. 11. 18 V.S.A. § 702 is amended to read:

§ 702. BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH; STRATEGIC PLAN

* * *

(c) The Blueprint shall be developed and implemented to further the following principles:

(1) ~~the~~ The primary care provider should serve a central role in the coordination of medical care and social services and shall be compensated appropriately for this effort;

(2) ~~use~~ Use of information technology should be maximized;

(3) ~~local~~ Local service providers should be used and supported,

whenever possible;

(4) ~~transition~~ Transition plans should be developed by all involved parties to ensure a smooth and timely transition from the current model to the Blueprint model of health care delivery and payment;

(5) ~~implementation~~ Implementation of the Blueprint in communities across the State should be accompanied by payment to providers sufficient to support care management activities consistent with the Blueprint, recognizing that interim or temporary payment measures may be necessary during early and transitional phases of implementation; ~~and~~

(6) ~~interventions~~ Interventions designed to prevent chronic disease and improve outcomes for persons with chronic disease should be maximized, should target specific chronic disease risk factors, and should address changes in individual behavior; the physical, mental, and social environment; and health care policies and systems.

(7) Providers should assess trauma and toxic stress to ensure that the needs of the whole patient are addressed and opportunities to build resilience and community supports are maximized.

* * *

Sec. 12. 18 V.S.A. § 9382 is amended to read:

§ 9382. OVERSIGHT OF ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATIONS

(a) In order to be eligible to receive payments from Medicaid or commercial insurance through any payment reform program or initiative, including an all-payer model, each accountable care organization shall obtain and maintain certification from the Green Mountain Care Board. The Board shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to establish standards and processes for certifying accountable care organizations. To the extent permitted under federal law, the Board shall ensure these rules anticipate and accommodate a range of ACO models and sizes, balancing oversight with support for innovation. In order to certify an ACO to operate in this State, the Board shall ensure that the following criteria are met:

* * *

(17) For preventing and addressing the impacts of adverse childhood experiences and other traumas, the ACO provides connections to existing community services and incentives, such as developing quality-outcome measurements for use by primary care providers working with children and families, developing partnerships between nurses and families, providing opportunities for home visits and other community services, and including parent-child centers, designated agencies, and the Department of Health's local offices as participating providers in the ACO.

* * *

Sec. 13. SCHOOL NURSES; HEALTH-RELATED BARRIERS TO LEARNING

On or before September 1, 2018, the Agency of Human Services' Director of Prevention shall coordinate with the Vermont State School Nurse Consultant and with the Agency of Education systematically to support local education agencies, school administrators, and school nurses in ensuring that all students' health appraisal forms are completed on an annual basis to enable school nurses to identify students' health-related barriers to learning.

* * * Opioid Abuse Treatment * * *

Sec. 14. 33 V.S.A. § 2004a is amended to read:

§ 2004a. EVIDENCE-BASED EDUCATION AND ADVERTISING FUND

(a) The Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund is established in the State Treasury as a special fund to be a source of financing for activities relating to fund collection and analysis of information on pharmaceutical marketing activities under 18 V.S.A. §§ 4632 and 4633; for analysis of prescription drug data needed by the Office of the Attorney General for enforcement activities; for the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 84A; for the evidence-based ~~education~~ educational program established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 2; for statewide unused prescription drug disposal initiatives; for the prevention of prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion; for prevention and treatment of substance use disorder; for exploration of nonpharmacological approaches to pain management; for a hospital antimicrobial program for the purpose of reducing hospital-acquired infections; for the purchase and distribution of naloxone to emergency medical services personnel; for evidence-based or evidence-informed opioid-related programming conducted for the benefit of children and families; and for the support of any opioid-antagonist ~~education~~ educational, training, and distribution program operated by the Department of Health or its agents. Monies deposited into the Fund shall be used for the purposes described in this section.

* * *

* * * Education * * *

Sec. 15. 16 V.S.A. § 136 is amended to read:

§ 136. WELLNESS PROGRAM; ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WELLNESS AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH

* * *

(c) The Secretary shall collaborate with other agencies and councils working on childhood wellness to:

(1) Supervise the preparation of appropriate nutrition and fitness curricula for use in the public schools, promote programs for the preparation of teachers to teach these curricula, and assist in the development of wellness programs.

(2) [Repealed.]

(3) Establish and maintain a website that displays data from a youth risk behavior survey in a way that enables the public to aggregate and disaggregate the information. The survey may include questions pertaining to adverse childhood experiences, meaning those potentially traumatic events that occur during childhood and can have negative, lasting effects on an individual's health and well-being.

(4) Research funding opportunities for schools and communities that wish to build wellness programs and make the information available to the public.

(5) Create a process for schools to share with the Department of Health any data collected about the height and weight of students in kindergarten through grade six. The Commissioner of Health may report any data compiled under this subdivision on a countywide basis. Any reporting of data must protect the privacy of individual students and the identity of participating schools.

* * *

Sec. 16. 16 V.S.A. § 2902 is amended to read:

§ 2902. TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM

* * *

(b) The tiered system of supports shall:

(1) be aligned as appropriate with the general education curriculum;

(2) be designed to enhance the ability of the general education system to meet the needs of all students;

(3) be designed to provide necessary supports promptly, regardless of an individual student's eligibility for categorical programs;

(4) seek to identify and respond to students in need of support for at-risk behaviors and to students in need of specialized, individualized behavior supports; and

(5) provide all students with a continuum of evidence-based and research-based behavior practices, including trauma-sensitive programming, that teach and encourage prosocial skills and behaviors schoolwide;

(6) promote collaboration with families, community supports, and the system of health and human services; and

(7) provide professional development as needed to support all staff in implementing the system.

(c) The educational support team for each public school in the district shall be composed of staff from a variety of teaching and support positions and shall:

(1) Determine which enrolled students require additional assistance to be successful in school or to complete secondary school based on indicators set forth in guidelines developed by the Secretary, such as academic progress, attendance, behavior, or poverty. The educational support team shall pay particular attention to students during times of academic or personal transition and to those students who have been exposed to trauma.

* * *

Sec. 17. 16 V.S.A. § 2904 is amended to read:

§ 2904. REPORTS

Annually, each superintendent shall report to the Secretary in a form prescribed by the Secretary, on the status of the ~~educational support systems~~ multi-tiered system of supports in each school ~~in the supervisory union~~. The report shall describe the services and supports that are a part of the ~~education support system~~ multi-tiered system of supports, how they are funded, and how building the capacity of the ~~educational support system~~ multi-tiered system of supports has been addressed in the ~~school action plans~~, school's continuous improvement plan and professional development and shall be in addition to the report required of the ~~educational support~~ multi-tiered system of supports team in subdivision 2902(c)(6) of this chapter. The superintendent's report shall include a description and justification of how funds received due to Medicaid reimbursement under section 2959a of this title were used.

* * * Appropriation * * *

Sec. 18. APPROPRIATION

The amount of \$119,503.00 shall be appropriated from funds designated for the Office of the Secretary of Human Services in the fiscal year 2019 budget bill to pay for the Director of Prevention position established in Sec. 5 of this act.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Kitchel for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 5, in the section heading, after “PREVENTION”, by inserting AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT and by striking out subdivision (a)(1) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (a)(1) to read as follows:

(a)(1) The position of Director of Prevention and Health Improvement shall be established within the Agency of Human Services. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Director position be funded by the repurposing of existing expenditures and resources, including the potential reassignment of existing positions. If the Secretary determines to fund this position by reassigning an existing position, he or she shall propose to the Joint Fiscal Committee prior to October 1, 2018 any necessary statutory modifications to reflect the reassignment.

Second: In Sec. 6, after “Director of Prevention” and before “shall”, by inserting and Health Improvement

Third: In Sec. 7, in the first sentence, after “Director of Prevention” and before the comma, by inserting and Health Improvement

Fourth: In Sec. 8, in the first sentence, after “Director of Prevention”, by inserting and Health Improvement

Fifth: In Sec. 9, in subsection (a), in the second sentence, after “Director of Prevention”, by inserting and Health Improvement

Sixth: In Sec. 13, after “Director of Prevention” and before “shall”, by inserting and Health Improvement

Seventh: By striking out Sec. 18 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 18 to read as follows:

Sec. 18. REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

(a) In an effort to eliminate duplicated efforts and realize savings, the Secretary of Human Services shall review working groups, commissions, and other initiatives pertaining to childhood trauma, substance use disorder, and mental health for the purpose of determining their effectiveness and budgetary impact. The working groups, commissions, and other initiatives addressed shall include:

- (1) the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4803;
- (2) the Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council pursuant 18 V.S.A. § 4255;
- (3) the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission pursuant to 15 V.S.A. § 1140;
- (4) the Mental Health Crisis Response Commission pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7257a;
- (5) the Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9504;
- (6) the Governor’s Marijuana Advisory Commission; and
- (7) the Governor’s Opioid Coordination Council.

(b) On or before October 1, 2018, the Secretary shall submit a report containing findings and recommendations for legislative action to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare and to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Human Services. Any savings identified in conducting this review may be used to fund the Director of Prevention and Health Improvement position established in Sec. 5 of this act.

(Committee vote: 5-0-2)

S. 262.

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to the Medicaid program and the Department of Vermont Health Access.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 3, 33 V.S.A. § 1958, in subsection (a), in the fourth sentence, by striking out the number “10” and inserting in lieu thereof the number 30

Second: By striking out Sec. 8, 3 V.S.A. § 3091, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 8 and reader assistance heading to read as follows:

* * * Human Services Board; Fair Hearings * * *

Sec. 8. 3 V.S.A. § 3091 is amended to read:

§ 3091. HEARINGS

* * *

(e)(1) The Board shall give written notice of its decision to the person applying for fair hearing and to the Agency.

(2) Unless a continuance is requested or consented to by an aggrieved person, decisions and orders concerning Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) under 33 V.S.A. chapter 11, TANF-Emergency Assistance (TANF-EA) under Title IV of the Social Security Act, and medical assistance (Medicaid) under 33 V.S.A. chapter 19 shall be issued by the Board within 75 days of after the request for hearing.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (c) or (d) or subdivision (1) of this subsection (e) to the contrary, in the case of an expedited Medicaid fair hearing, the Board shall delegate both its fact-finding and final decision-making authority to a hearing officer, and the hearing officer's written findings and order shall constitute the Board's decision and order in accordance with timelines set forth in federal law.

* * *

(i) In the case of an appeal of a Medicaid covered service decision made by the Department of Vermont Health Access or any entity with which the Department of Vermont Health Access enters into an agreement to perform service authorizations that may result in an adverse benefit determination, the right to a fair hearing granted by subsection (a) of this section shall be available to an aggrieved beneficiary only after that individual has exhausted, or is deemed to have exhausted, the Department of Vermont Health Access's internal appeals process and has received a notice that the adverse benefit determination was upheld.

Third: By adding a section to be Sec. 8a to read as follows:

Sec. 8a. APPEAL OF MEDICAID COVERED SERVICE DECISIONS;
FAIR HEARING; RULEMAKING

The Department of Vermont Health Access shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 establishing a process by which the Department shall ensure that a Medicaid beneficiary who files a request for a fair hearing with the Human Services Board prior to exhausting the Department's internal appeals process receives appropriate assistance with filing the internal appeal and, if the internal appeal results in an adverse determination, with filing a timely request for a fair hearing with the Human Services Board if the beneficiary wishes to do so.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Service Board shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Adam Greshin of Warren - Commissioner of the Department of Finance and Management (term 7/10/17 - 2/28/19) - By Senator Clarkson for the Committee on Government Operations. (2/28/19)

Richard J. Wobby of Northfield - Member of the Liquor Control Board - By Senator Ayer for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (2/21/18)

NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

March 15, 2018 - 10:30 A.M. - Retention of One Superior Court Judge, John R. Treadwell and one Magistrate, Barry E. Peterson.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CROSS OVER DATES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following Crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 2, 2018**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 16, 2018**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

Note: The Senate will not act on bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (Appropriations “Big Bill”, Transportation Spending Bill, Capital Construction Bill, and Fee Bill).