

Senate Calendar

MONDAY, MAY 07, 2018

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**ACTION CALENDAR
CONSIDERATION POSTPONED
House Proposal of Amendment**

S. 111

An act relating to privatization contracts.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the Senate concur with the House Proposal of Amendment?

(For text of House Proposal of Amendment see Senate Journal of May 4, 2018, page 1038)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 608

An act relating to creating an Older Vermonters Act working group

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

By striking out Sec. 3, Older Vermonters Act working group; report, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. OLDER VERMONTERS ACT WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created an Older Vermonters Act working group for the purpose of developing recommendations for an Older Vermonters Act that aligns with the federal Older Americans Act, the Vermont State Plan on Aging, and the Choices for Care program.

(b) Membership. The working group shall be composed of the following 18 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 Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(4) the Director of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Department of Health or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

(6) the Attorney General or designee;

(7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging or designee;

(8) the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman;

(9) the Director of Vermont Associates for Training and Development or designee;

(10) a representative of the Vermont Association of Adult Day Services, appointed by the Association;

(11) a representative of home health agencies, appointed jointly by the VNAs of Vermont and Bayada Home Health Care;

(12) a representative of long-term care facilities, appointed by the Vermont Health Care Association;

(13) the Director of the Center on Aging at the University of Vermont or designee;

(14) a representative of the Vermont Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers, appointed by the Association;

(15) two older Vermonters from different regions of the State, appointed by the Advisory Board established by 33 V.S.A. § 505; and

(16) two family caregivers of older Vermonters, one of whom is a family member of an older Vermonter and one of whom is an informal provider of in-home and community care, appointed by the Advisory Board established by 33 V.S.A. § 505.

(c) Powers and duties. The working group, in consultation with elder care mental health clinicians, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Community of Vermont Elders, the Alzheimer's Association, Support and Services at Home (SASH), AARP Vermont, the Elder Law Project at Vermont Legal Aid, the Vermont Public Transportation Association, and other interested stakeholders, shall develop recommendations on the following:

(1) the authority and responsibilities of the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living as a State Unit on Aging;

(2) the authority and responsibilities of the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living with respect to the management, approval, and oversight of services provided to eligible older Vermonters through the Choices for Care program;

(3) the roles and responsibilities of the Area Agencies on Aging as the designated regional planning organizations serving older Vermonters and family caregivers;

(4) the roles and responsibilities of the network of providers of services to older Vermonters and family caregivers;

(5) a description of a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and supports for older Vermonters and family caregivers as envisioned by the Older Americans Act and the Choices for Care program, including supportive services, nutrition services, health promotion and disease prevention services, family caregiver services, employment services, and protective services;

(6) a description of how such a system would be coordinated across State agencies, provider networks, and geographic regions;

(7) how to ensure that such a system would target those in greatest economic and social need;

(8) ways to encourage and educate older Vermonters to continue in the workforce and to become or remain involved in their communities through participation in volunteer activities and opportunities for civic engagement; and

(9) ways to educate employers about the value of the older Vermont talent cohort and the benefits of maintaining a multigenerational workforce, as well as identification of models that may be replicated across sectors and industries.

(d) Assistance. The working group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

(e) Report. On or before December 1, 2019, the working group shall submit its recommendations to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee shall chair the working group and shall call the first meeting of the working group, which shall occur on or before September 15, 2018.

(2) The working group shall meet as often as reasonably necessary to develop its recommendations, but not less frequently than once every two months.

(3) The working group shall cease to exist upon submitting its report to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2019.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the working group 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 a total of not more than eight meetings.

(2) Other members of the working group who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance at meetings of the working group shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

(3) Payments to members of the working group authorized under subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 571.

An act relating to creating the Department of Liquor and Lottery and the Board of Liquor and Lottery.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 63, 7 V.S.A. § 278, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a) A manufacturer or rectifier of vinous beverages that is licensed in ~~state~~ the State or ~~out-of-state~~ outside the State and holds valid state and federal permits and operates a winery in the United States may apply for a retail shipping license by filing with the ~~Department~~ Division of Liquor Control an application in a form required by the Commissioner accompanied by a copy of its in-state or out-of-state license and the fee provided in section 204 of this title.

Second: In Sec. 90, 31 V.S.A. § 654a, redesignated § 652, in subdivision (2)(C), after the words “A procedure adopted pursuant to this section shall” by inserting the following: have the force of law and

Third: In Sec. 94, 31 V.S.A. § 658, redesignated § 656, in subsection (b), in the second sentence before the second occurrence of the phrase “percent of gross receipts,” by striking out the number “1” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: ± one

Fourth: After Sec. 111, by inserting new Secs. 112, 113, and 114 to read:

Sec. 112. 7 V.S.A. § 660 is amended to read:

§ 660. ADVERTISING

(a) ~~A person shall not display on~~ Any outside billboards or signs ~~erected on the highway any that contain an~~ advertisement of ~~any kind~~ relating to alcoholic beverages, or indicate where alcoholic beverages may be procured shall comply with the requirements of 10 V.S.A. chapter 21. A person who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not more than \$100.00 nor less than \$10.00, for each offense, and a conviction for a violation shall be cause for revoking the person’s license issued under this title.

* * *

Sec. 113. 13 V.S.A. § 2143 is amended to read:

§ 2143. NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

(a)(1) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter,~~a

(A) A nonprofit organization, as defined in 31 V.S.A. § 1201(5), may organize and execute, and an individual may participate in lotteries, raffles, or other games of chance for the purpose of raising funds to be used in charitable, religious, educational, and civic undertakings or used by fraternal organizations to provide direct support to charitable, religious, educational, or civic undertakings with which they are affiliated.

(B) A nonprofit organization, as defined in 31 V.S.A. § 1201(5), may organize and execute, and a member of that organization may participate in, lotteries, raffles, or other games of chance in which all of the proceeds are awarded as prizes to the members who participated. An individual who is not a member of the nonprofit organization shall not be allowed to participate in a lottery, raffle, or other game of chance organized under this subdivision (B).

(2) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, gambling machines and other mechanical devices described in section 2135 of this title shall not be ~~utilized~~ used under authority of this section.

* * *

(d) Casino events shall be limited as follows:

* * *

(4) As used in this subsection, “casino event” means an event held during any 24-hour period at which ~~any game of chance is a card tournament or casino table games, such as baccarat, blackjack, craps, poker, or roulette, or both are conducted except those.~~ Games of chance prohibited by subdivision 2135(a)(1) or (2) of this title- shall not be permitted at a “casino event.” A “casino event” shall not include a fair, bazaar, field days, agricultural exposition, or similar event that ~~utilizes~~ uses a wheel of fortune, chuck-a-luck, or other ~~such~~ games commonly conducted at such events, or break-open tickets, bingo, a lottery, or a raffle. “Card tournament” means an event during which participants, as individual players or members of a team, pay a fixed entry fee to play a series of card games, with the tournament winners determined based on the cumulative results of the games and the winners’ prizes determined as a portion of the proceeds from the entry fees.

(e) Games of chance shall be limited as follows:

(1) ~~All~~ Except as otherwise provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section, all proceeds raised by a game of chance shall be used exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and civic undertakings after deducting:

* * *

Sec. 114. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

On or before November 15, 2018, the Attorney General shall update the gambling page on the Attorney General’s website to include the amendments to 13 V.S.A. § 2143 made pursuant to this act.

And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 20, 2018, pages 416-417 and February 21, 2018, page 419)

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

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following amendment thereto:

In the *Fourth* proposal of amendment by adding a new Sec. 115 to read as follows:

Sec. 115. LOTTERY AGENT SALES PRACTICES; INTEGRITY; REVIEW; REPORT

(a) The Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery shall conduct a review of:

(1) lottery prize winners by agency location to determine whether a disproportionate number of winning tickets sold by each lottery agent was purchased by the owner or of an employee of the agent, or by an immediate family member of the owner or of an employee of the agent; and

(2) the sales, fraud prevention, and security practices of each lottery agent to determine whether those practices are sufficient to preserve the integrity of the Lottery and to avoid the occurrence or appearance of illegitimate winnings by the owner or an employee of the agent, or by an immediate family member of the owner or of an employee of the agent.

(b) On or before October 1, 2018, the Commissioner shall submit a written report on the findings of the review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the Joint Fiscal Committee.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

H. 675.

An act relating to conditions of release prior to trial.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 1702 is amended to read:

§ 1702. CRIMINAL THREATENING

(a) A person shall not by words or conduct knowingly:

(1) threaten another person; and

(2) as a result of the threat, place ~~the~~ any other person in reasonable apprehension of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or any other person.

(b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(c) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section with the intent to prevent another person from reporting to the Department for Children and Families the suspected abuse or neglect of a child shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(d)(1) A person shall not by words or conduct knowingly:

(A) threaten to use a firearm or an explosive device to harm another person in a school building, on school property, or in an institution of higher education; and

(B) as a result of the threat, place any other person in reasonable apprehension of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or any other person.

(2) A person who violates this subsection shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

~~(d)~~(e) As used in this section:

(1) “Serious bodily injury” shall have the same meaning as in section 1021 of this title.

(2) “Threat” and “threaten” shall not include constitutionally protected activity.

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

(4) “School property” shall have the same meaning as in section 4004 of this title.

~~(e)~~(f) Any person charged under subsection (a) or (c) of this section who is under 18 years of age shall be adjudicated as a juvenile delinquent.

~~(f)~~(g) It shall be an affirmative defense to a charge under this section that the person did not have the ability to carry out the threat. The burden shall be on the defendant to prove the affirmative defense by a preponderance of the evidence.

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 4004 is amended to read:

§ 4004. POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS OR DEADLY WEAPON IN A
SCHOOL BUS OR SCHOOL BUILDING OR ON SCHOOL
PROPERTY

(a) No person shall knowingly possess a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon while within a school building or on a school bus. A person who violates this section shall, for the first offense, be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both, and for a second or subsequent offense shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(b) No person shall knowingly possess a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon on any school property with the intent to injure another person. A person who violates this section shall, for the first offense, be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both, and for a second or subsequent offense shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to:

(1) A law enforcement officer ~~while engaged in law enforcement duties.~~

(2) Possession and use of firearms or dangerous or deadly weapons if the board of school directors, or the superintendent or principal if delegated authority to do so by the board, authorizes possession or use for specific occasions or for instructional or other specific purposes.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "School property" means any property owned by a school, including motor vehicles.

(2) "Owned by the school" means owned, leased, controlled or subcontracted by the school.

* * *

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1167 is amended to read:

§ 1167. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER; MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(a) Neither the State Board nor the Agency shall regulate the use of restraint and seclusion on school property by a school resource officer certified pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358.

(b) ~~School boards~~ Prior to utilization of a school resource officer in a school, the school board and relevant law enforcement agencies are encouraged to ~~agency shall~~ enter into memoranda of understanding relating to:

(1) the possession and use of weapons and devices by a school resource officer on school property; and

(2) the nature and scope of assistance that a school resource officer will provide to the school system.

Sec. 4. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONDING TO SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS

On or before July 1, 2019, the Agency of Education shall issue a report to all public school boards and boards of approved independent schools that set out restorative justice principles for responding to school discipline problems. On or before July 1, 2020, each public school board and each board of an approved independent school shall adopt a policy on the use of restorative justice principles for responding to school discipline problems, which shall be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year. The restorative justice principles contained in the Agency report and the schools' policies shall be designed to:

(1) decrease the use of exclusionary discipline;

(2) ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly and do not target students based on race, ethnicity, gender, family income level, sexual orientation, immigration status, or disability status; and

(3) provide students with the opportunity to make academic progress while suspended or expelled.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

Sec. 3 shall take effect July 1, 2018 and the remaining sections shall take effect on passage.

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

An act relating to school safety.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 1, 2018, page 494 and March 2, 2018, page 570)

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Education.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Judiciary with the following amendments thereto:

First: By striking out Sec. 2 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof:

[Deleted.]

Second: By striking out Sec. 4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 4. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONDING TO SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS

On or before July 1, 2019, the Agency of Education shall issue guidance to all public school boards and boards of approved independent schools that sets out restorative justice principles for responding to school discipline problems. Each public school board and each board of an approved independent school shall consider this guidance and whether to adopt a policy on the use of restorative justice principles for responding to school discipline problems. The restorative justice principles contained in the Agency guidance shall be designed to:

(1) decrease the use of exclusionary discipline;

(2) ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly and do not target students based on race, ethnicity, gender, family income level, sexual orientation, immigration status, or disability status; and

(3) provide students with the opportunity to make academic progress while suspended or expelled.

Third: By adding a new section, to be Sec. 5, to read:

**Sec. 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRINCIPLES;
GRANT PROGRAM**

(a) The Agency of Education shall establish a grant program to assist public and approved independent schools with the adoption and implementation of restorative justice principles for responding to school discipline problems. The Agency shall determine the eligibility criteria for receiving a grant and determining the grant amount, and shall monitor the use of grant monies.

(b) On or before December 1, 2018, 2019, and 2020, the Secretary of Education shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Education and Judiciary and the Senate Committees on Education and on Judiciary describing the eligibility criteria for receiving a grant and for determining the grant amount, identifying the grant recipients and the amounts they received in grant monies, and the use of grant monies by the recipients.

(c) The sum of \$250,000.00 is appropriated to the Agency of Education from the General Fund for fiscal year 2019 for the Agency to administer the grant program in accordance with this section.

And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

(Committee vote: 6-0-0)

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Education with the following amendment thereto:

By striking out Sec. 5 in its entirety and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

House Proposals of Amendment

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.

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

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2405 is amended to read:

§ 2405. COUNCIL HEARING AND SANCTION PROCEDURE

(a) Generally. Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, ~~the Council~~ all proceedings under this subchapter shall conduct its proceedings be conducted in accordance with the Vermont Administrative Procedure Act. This includes the ability to summarily suspend the certification of a law enforcement officer in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 814(c).

(b) Prosecutor.

(1) An Assistant Attorney General assigned by the Office of the Attorney General shall be responsible for prosecuting unprofessional conduct cases under this subchapter.

(2) The burden of proof shall be on the State to show by a preponderance of the evidence that a law enforcement officer has engaged in unprofessional conduct.

(c) Hearing officer.

(1) The Council shall appoint a hearing officer, who shall be an attorney admitted to practice law in this State, to conduct any unprofessional conduct hearing under this subchapter. The Council shall choose the hearing officer from a list of hearing officers provided by the Office of Professional Regulation.

(2) The hearing officer may administer oaths and exercise powers properly incidental to the conduct of the hearing.

(3) Any hearing officer sitting in an unprofessional conduct case shall do so impartially and without any ex parte knowledge of the case in controversy.

(4)(A) The hearing officer shall issue findings of fact and conclusions of law regarding the prosecutor's charges of unprofessional conduct.

(B) For the purposes of subdivision 2406(b)(1)(B) of this subchapter, the hearing officer shall determine at the hearing and shall include in his or her findings of fact whether there is a pending labor proceeding related to any unprofessional conduct that the hearing officer concludes a law enforcement officer committed.

(5)(A) The hearing officer shall report the findings of fact and conclusions of law to the Council within 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing, unless the Council grants an extension. The provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 811 regarding proposals for decision shall not apply to the hearing officer's report.

(B) The hearing officer's findings and conclusions shall be binding on the Council; provided, however, that the Council may request that the hearing officer make clarifications or additional findings.

(d) Council.

(1) The Council shall hold a sanction hearing based on the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions of law. Unless the Council grants an extension, the Council shall hold its sanction hearing within 30 days after the date the hearing officer reports his or her findings of fact and conclusions of law to the Council or within 30 days after the date the hearing officer makes clarifications or additional findings under subdivision (c)(5)(B) of this section, whichever occurs later.

(2) Unless the Council grants an extension, the Council shall issue its sanction order within 10 days after its sanction hearing.

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 2406 is amended to read:

§ 2406. PERMITTED COUNCIL SANCTIONS

(a) Generally. The Council may impose any of the following sanctions on a law enforcement officer's certification upon its finding a hearing officer's conclusion 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 recertification at the discretion of the Council; or

(4) permanent revocation.

(b) Intended revocation; temporary voluntary surrender.

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

(B) Within 10 business days ~~from~~ after the date of that ~~decision order~~, such an officer may voluntarily surrender his or her certification if the hearing officer determined under subdivision 2405(c)(4)(B) of this subchapter that there is a pending labor proceeding related to the Council's unprofessional conduct findings the hearing officer concluded the law enforcement officer committed.

(C) A voluntary surrender of an officer's certification 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 Council's final sanction hearing on the matter. At that hearing, the Council may modify its ~~findings and decision~~ sanction order on the basis of additional evidence set forth in the labor proceeding decision, but shall not be bound by any outcome of the labor proceeding.

(2) If an officer fails to voluntarily surrender his or her certification in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Council's original ~~findings and decision~~ sanction order shall take effect.

Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 2410 is amended to read:

§ 2410. COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created the Council Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Council regarding its duties under this subchapter.

(1) The Committee shall specifically:

(A) advise and assist the Council in developing procedures to ensure that allegations of unprofessional conduct by law enforcement officers are investigated fully and fairly, and to ensure that appropriate action is taken in regard to those allegations; and

(B) recommend to the Council any appropriate sanctions to impose on a law enforcement officer's certification upon a hearing officer's concluding that the law enforcement officer committed unprofessional conduct.

(2) The Committee shall be advisory only and shall not have any decision-making authority.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of five individuals appointed by the Governor. The Governor may solicit recommendations for appointments from the Chair of the Council.

(1) Four of these members shall be public members who during incumbency shall not serve and shall have never served as a law enforcement officer or corrections officer and shall not have an immediate family member who is serving or has ever served as either of those officers.

(2) One of these members shall be a retired law enforcement officer.

(c) Assistance. The Executive Director of the Council or designee shall attend Committee meetings as a resource for the Committee.

(d) Reimbursement. ~~Members of the Committee 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~~ as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than ~~five~~ eight meetings per year. Such payments shall be derived from the budget of the Council.

Sec. 4. 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~~ January 1, 2019, 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.

(2) Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council. On or before ~~April 1, 2018~~ July 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.

(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.

(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.

(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.

(f) Annual report of Executive Director. Annually, on or before January 15, beginning in the year ~~2019~~ 2020 and ending in the year ~~2022~~ 2023, the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the ~~General Assembly~~ House and Senate Committees on Government Operations regarding the Executive Director's analysis of the implementation of this act and any recommendations he or she may have for further legislative action.

(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.

Sec. 5. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 56, Sec. 6 is amended to read:

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on ~~July 1, 2018~~ January 1, 2019, except:

(1) this section and Sec. 2 (transitional provisions to implement this act) shall take effect on passage; and

(2) the following shall take effect on July 1, 2017:

(A) in Sec. 1, 20 V.S.A. chapter 151 (Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council):

(i) § 2351 (creation and purpose of Council);

(ii) § 2351a (definitions);

(iii) § 2352 (Council membership);

(iv) § 2354 (Council meetings);

(v) § 2355 (Council powers and duties), except that subsection (a) shall take effect on ~~July 1, 2018~~ January 1, 2019;

(vi) § 2358 (minimum training standards; definitions); and

(vii) § 2362a (potential hiring agency; duty to contact former agency);

(B) Sec. 3, 20 V.S.A. § 1812 (definitions); and

(C) Sec. 4, 20 V.S.A. § 1922 (creation of State Police Advisory Commission; members; duties).

Sec. 6. 13 V.S.A. § 3251 is amended to read:

§ 3251. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(9) “Law enforcement officer” means a person certified as a law enforcement officer under the provisions of 20 V.S.A. chapter 151.

Sec. 7. 13 V.S.A. § 3259 is added to read:

§ 3259. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A PERSON IN THE CUSTODY OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

(a) No law enforcement officer shall engage in a sexual act with a person whom the officer is detaining, arresting, or otherwise holding in custody or who the officer knows is being detained, arrested, or otherwise held in custody by another officer.

(b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned for not more than five years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Secs. 1, 20 V.S.A. § 2405 (Council hearing and sanction procedure); 2, 20 V.S.A. § 2406 (permitted Council sanctions); and 3, 20 V.S.A. § 2410 (Council Advisory Committee) shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

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

An act relating to the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council's professional regulation of law enforcement officers.

S. 281

An act relating to the mitigation of systemic racism.

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

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to promote racial justice reform throughout the State by mitigating systemic racism in all systems of State government and creating a culture of inclusiveness.

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 2102 is amended to read:

§ 2102. POWERS AND DUTIES

(a) The Governor's Cabinet shall adopt and implement a program of continuing coordination and improvement of the activities carried on at all levels of State and local government.

(b) The Cabinet shall work collaboratively with the Executive Director of Racial Equity and may provide the Director with access to all relevant records and information as permitted by law.

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. chapter 68 is added to read:

CHAPTER 68. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RACIAL EQUITY

§ 5001. POSITION

(a) There is created within the Executive Branch the position of Executive Director of Racial Equity to identify and work to eradicate systemic racism within State government.

(b) The Executive Director of Racial Equity shall have the powers and duties enumerated within section 2102 of this title and shall work collaboratively with and act as a liaison between the Governor's Workforce Equity and Diversity Council, the Vermont Human Rights Commission, and the Governor's Cabinet.

§ 5002. RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY PANEL

(a) The Racial Equity Advisory Panel is established. The Panel shall be organized and have the duties and responsibilities as provided in this section. The Panel shall have administrative, legal, and technical support of the Agency of Administration.

(b)(1) The Panel shall consist of five members, as follows:

(A) one member appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees who shall not be a current legislator;

(B) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House who shall not be a current legislator;

(C) one member appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who shall not be a current legislator;

(D) one member appointed by the Governor who shall not be a current legislator; and

(E) one member appointed by the Human Rights Commission who shall not be a current legislator.

(2) Members shall be drawn from diverse backgrounds to represent the interests of communities of color throughout the State, have experience working to implement racial justice reform and, to the extent possible, represent geographically diverse areas of the State.

(3) The term of each member shall be three years, except that of the members first appointed, one each shall serve a term of one year, to be appointed by the Human Rights Commission; two years, to be appointed by the Governor; three years, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; four years, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees; and five years, to be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, so that the term of one regular member expires in each ensuing year. As terms of currently serving members expire, appointments of successors shall be in accord with the provisions of this subsection. Appointments of members to fill vacancies or expired terms shall be made by the authority that made the initial appointment to the vacated or expired term. Members shall serve until their successors are elected or appointed. Members shall serve not more than three consecutive terms in any capacity.

(4) Members of the Panel shall elect by majority vote the Chair of the Panel, who shall serve for a term of three years after the implementation period. Members of the Panel shall be appointed on or before September 1, 2018 in order to prepare as they deem necessary for the establishment of the Panel, including the election of the Chair of the Panel. Terms of members shall officially begin on January 1, 2019.

(c) The Panel shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) work with the Executive Director of Racial Equity to implement the reforms identified as necessary in the comprehensive organizational review as required by subsection 5003(a) of this title; and

(2) advise the Director to ensure ongoing compliance with the purpose of this chapter, and advise the Governor on strategies for remediating systemic racial disparities in statewide systems of government.

(d) Each member of the Panel shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

§ 5003. DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RACIAL EQUITY

(a) The Executive Director of Racial Equity shall work with the agencies and departments to implement a program of continuing coordination and improvement of activities in State government in order to combat systemic racial disparities and measure progress toward fair and impartial governance, including:

(1) oversee a comprehensive organizational review to identify systemic racism in each of the three branches of State government and inventory systems in place that engender racial disparities;

(2) create a strategy for implementing a centralized platform for race-based data collection and manage the aggregation, correlation, and public dissemination of the data; and

(3) develop a model fairness and diversity policy and review and make recommendations regarding the fairness and diversity policies held by all State government systems.

(b) Pursuant to section 2102 of this title, work collaboratively with State agencies and departments to gather relevant existing data and records necessary to carry out the purpose of this chapter and to develop best practices for remediating systemic racial disparities throughout State government.

(c) The Director shall work with the agencies and departments and with the Chief Performance Officer to develop performance targets and performance measures for the General Assembly, the Judiciary, and the agencies and departments to evaluate respective results in improving systems. These

performance measures shall be included in the agency's or department's quarterly reports to the Director, and the Director shall include each agency's or department's performance targets and performance measures in his or her annual reports to the General Assembly.

(d) The Director shall, in consultation with the Department of Human Resources and the agencies and departments, develop and conduct trainings for agencies and departments regarding the nature and scope of systemic racism and the institutionalized nature of race-based bias. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to discharge the existing duty of the Department of Human Resources to conduct trainings.

(e) On or before January 15, 2020, and annually thereafter, report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations demonstrating the State's progress in identifying and remediating systemic racial bias within State government.

§ 5004. INFORMATION; DISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

(a) Confidentiality of records. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the records of the Racial Equity Director and the Racial Equity Advisory Panel shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential.

(b) Exceptions.

(1) The Director and Panel members may make records available to each other, the Governor, and the Governor's Cabinet as necessary to fulfill their duties as set forth in this chapter. They may also make records pertaining to any alleged violations of antidiscrimination statutes available to any State or federal law enforcement agency authorized to enforce such statutes. The Director or Panel may refuse to disclose records or information the release of which may be prohibited under State or federal law absent court order.

(2) Any records or information described in subdivision (1) of this subsection made available to a party or entity pursuant to a confidentiality agreement or court order requiring confidentiality shall be kept confidential in accordance with the agreement or order, unless disclosure is otherwise authorized by law or court order.

§ 5005. NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS

(a) The Racial Equity Advisory Panel shall select for consideration by the Panel, by majority vote, provided that a quorum is present, from the applications for the position of Executive Director of Racial Equity as many candidates as it deems qualified for the position.

(b) The Panel shall submit to the Governor the names of the three candidates it deems most qualified to be appointed to fill the position.

(c) The Governor shall make the appointment to the Executive Director position from the list of qualified candidates submitted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The names of candidates submitted and not selected shall remain confidential.

Sec. 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RACIAL EQUITY POSITION

One new permanent, exempt position of Executive Director of Racial Equity is created within the Agency of Administration.

Sec. 5. FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATION

There is appropriated to the Agency of Administration from the General Fund for fiscal year 2019 the amount of \$75,000.00 for the Racial Equity Advisory Panel and the position of Executive Director of Racial Equity.

Sec. 6. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION; RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY PANEL; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RACIAL EQUITY; REPORT

(a) On or before September 1, 2018, the Racial Equity Advisory Panel shall be appointed.

(b) On or before November 1, 2018, the Racial Equity Advisory Panel shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Administration and the Department of Human Resources, have developed and posted a job description for the Executive Director of Racial Equity.

(c) On or before January 1, 2019, the Racial Equity Advisory Panel shall submit to the Governor the names of the three candidates for the Executive Director of Racial Equity position.

(d) On or before February 1, 2019, the Governor shall appoint the Executive Director of Racial Equity.

(e) On or before May 1, 2019, the Executive Director of Racial Equity shall update the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations regarding how best to complete a comprehensive organizational review to identify systemic racism pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 5003, and potential private and public sources of funding to achieve the review.

Sec. 7. REPEAL

On June 30, 2023:

(1) Sec. 3 of this act (creating the Executive Director of Racial Equity and Racial Equity Advisory Panel in 3 V.S.A. chapter 68) is repealed and the Officer position and Panel shall cease to exist; and

(2) Sec. 4 of this act (authorization for the Executive Director of Racial Equity position) is repealed.

Sec. 8. 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 racial equity in State government.

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 806

An act relating to the Southeast State Correctional Facility

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

In Sec. 1, Southeast State Correctional Facility; Report, in subsection (b), by striking out the following: “if any.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018

Third Reading

H. 636.

An act relating to miscellaneous fish and wildlife subjects.

Proposal of amendment to H. 636 to be offered by Senator Rodgers before Third Reading

Senator Rodgers moves to amend the Senate proposal of amendment as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 10 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 4254c is added to read:

§ 4254c. NOTICE OF TRAPPING; DOMESTIC DOG OR DOMESTIC CAT

A person who incidentally traps a domestic dog or domestic cat shall notify a fish and wildlife warden or the Department within 24 hours after discovery of the trapped domestic dog or domestic cat. The Department shall maintain records of all reports of incidentally trapped domestic dogs or domestic cats submitted under this section, and the reports shall include the disposition of each incidentally trapped domestic dog or domestic cat.

Second: By striking out Sec. 12 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

Words and phrases used in this part, unless otherwise provided, shall be construed to mean as follows:

* * *

(13) Rabbit: to include wild hare.

(14) Fur-bearing animals: beaver, otter, marten, mink, raccoon, fisher, fox, skunk, coyote, bobcat, weasel, opossum, lynx, wolf, and muskrat.

(15) Wild animals or wildlife: all animals, including birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, other than domestic animals, domestic cats, or domestic dogs.

* * *

(40) Domestic cat: any species of Felis catus that is normally maintained in or near the household of the owner. Domestic cat shall not mean a feral cat, bobcat, or a wild animal.

(41) Domestic dog: any species of Canis lupus familiaris that is normally maintained in or near the household of the owner. Domestic dog shall not mean a coyote or a wild animal.

(42) Feral cat: any species of Felis catus that: has no visible owner identification of any kind; lives outdoors; and displays a temperament of extreme fear in the presence of humans.

Proposal of amendment to H. 636 to be offered by Senator Rodgers before Third Reading

Senator Rodgers moves to amend the Senate proposal of amendment as follows:

By adding Secs. 16a–16d with a reader assistance heading to read as follows:

* * * Gun Suppressors for Hunting * * *

Sec. 16a. 13 V.S.A. § 4010 is amended to read:

§ 4010. GUN SUPPRESSORS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Gun suppressor” means any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for use in assembling or fabricating a gun suppressor, and any part intended only for use in such assembly or fabrication.

(2) “Sport shooting range” shall have the same meaning as used in 10 V.S.A. § 5227(a).

(b) A person shall not manufacture, make, or import a gun suppressor, except for:

(1) a licensed manufacturer, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, who is registered as a manufacturer pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 5802;

(2) a licensed importer, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, who is registered as an importer pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 5802; or

(3) a person who makes a gun suppressor in compliance with the requirements of 26 U.S.C. § 5822.

(c) A person shall not use a gun suppressor in the State, except for use by:

(1) a Level III certified law enforcement officer or Department of Fish and Wildlife employee in connection with his or her duties and responsibilities and in accordance with the policies and procedures of that officer’s or employee’s agency or department;

(2) the Vermont National Guard in connection with its duties and responsibilities;

(3) a licensed manufacturer or a licensed importer, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, who is also registered as a manufacturer or an importer pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 5802, who in the ordinary course of his or her business as a manufacturer or as an importer tests the operation of the gun suppressor; ~~or~~

(4) a person lawfully using a sport shooting range; or

(5) a person taking game as authorized under 10 V.S.A. § 4701.

(d)(1) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not less than \$500.00 for each offense.

(2) A person who violates subsection (c) of this section shall be fined \$50.00 for each offense.

Sec. 16b. 10 V.S.A. § 4701 is amended to read:

§ 4701. USE OF GUN, BOW AND ARROW, AND CROSSBOW; LEGAL DAY; DOGS; GUN SUPPRESSORS

(a) Unless otherwise provided by statute, a person shall not take game except with:

(1) a gun fired at arm's length;

(2) a bow and arrow; or

(3) a crossbow as authorized under section 4711 of this title or as authorized by the rules of the Board.

(b) A person shall not take game between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise unless otherwise provided by statute or by the rules of the Board.

(c) A person may take game and fur-bearing animals during the open season therefor, with the aid of a dog, unless otherwise prohibited by statute or by the rules of the Board.

(d) A person taking game with a gun may possess, carry, or use a gun suppressor in the act of taking game.

Sec. 16c. 10 V.S.A. § 4704 is amended to read

§ 4704. USE OF MACHINE GUNS, OR AUTOLOADING RIFLES, ~~AND~~
GUN SUPPRESSORS

(a) A person engaged in hunting for wild animals shall not use, carry, or have in his or her possession:

(1) a machine gun of any kind or description; or

(2) an autoloading rifle with a magazine capacity of over six cartridges, except a .22 caliber rifle using rim fire cartridges; ~~or~~

~~(3) a gun suppressor.~~

~~(b) As used in this section, "gun suppressor" means any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for use in assembling or fabricating a gun suppressor, and any part intended only for use in such assembly or fabrication. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 16d. 10 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

Words and phrases used in this part, unless otherwise provided, shall be construed to mean as follows:

* * *

(9) Game: game birds or game quadrupeds, or both.

(10) Game birds: quail, partridge, woodcock, pheasant, plover of any kind, Wilson snipe, other shore birds, rail, coot, gallinule, wild ducks, wild geese, and wild turkey.

* * *

(15) Wild animals or wildlife: all animals, including birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, other than domestic animals.

* * *

(23) Take and taking: pursuing, shooting, hunting, killing, capturing, trapping, snaring, and netting fish, birds, and quadrupeds and all lesser acts, such as disturbing, harrying or worrying, or wounding or placing, setting, drawing, or using any net or other device commonly used to take fish or wild animals, whether they result in the taking or not; and shall include every attempt to take and every act of assistance to every other person in taking or attempting to take fish or wild animals, provided that when taking is allowed by law, reference is had to taking by lawful means and in lawful manner.

* * *

(40) Gun suppressor: any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for use in assembling or fabricating a gun suppressor, and any part intended only for use in such assembly or fabrication.

H. 897.

An act relating to enhancing the effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to students who require additional support.

H. 911.

An act relating to changes in Vermont's personal income tax and education financing system.

H. 927.

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

Second Reading

Favorable

H. 916.

An act relating to increasing the moral obligation authority of the Vermont Economic Development Authority.

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

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

(No House amendments)

Reported favorably by Senator Sears for the Committee on Appropriations.

(Committee vote: 4-0-3)

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 410.

An act relating to adding products to Vermont's energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Appliance Efficiency * * *

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

(a) In 9 V.S.A. § 2792, the General Assembly found that efficiency standards for products sold or installed in the State provide benefits to consumers and businesses, including saving money on utility bills, saving energy and thereby reducing the environmental impacts of energy consumption, reducing or delaying the need for new power plants and upgrades to the electric transmission and distribution system, and allowing the energy cost savings to be spent on other goods and services within the State's economy.

(b) The purpose of this act is to obtain the benefits found in 9 V.S.A. § 2792 for the following products to which the State's efficiency standards under 9 V.S.A. chapter 74 do not currently apply: air compressors, commercial dishwashers, commercial fryers, commercial hot-food holding

cabinets, commercial steam cookers, computers and computer monitors, faucets, high color rendering index fluorescent lamps, portable air conditioners, portable electric spas, residential ventilating fans, showerheads, spray sprinkler bodies, uninterruptible power supplies, urinals, and water coolers.

Sec. 2. 9 V.S.A. § 2793 is amended to read:

§ 2793. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(16) With respect to air compressors, the following definitions apply:

(A) “Air compressor” means a compressor that is designed to compress air that has an inlet open to the atmosphere or other source of air and that consists of the bare compressor, also known as the compression element; one or more drivers; mechanical equipment to drive the compression element; and any ancillary equipment.

(B) “Compressor” means a machine or apparatus that converts different types of energy into the potential energy of gas pressure for displacement and compression of gaseous media to any higher-pressure values above atmospheric pressure and has a pressure ratio at full-load operating pressure greater than 1.3.

(17) “Commercial dishwasher” means a machine designed to clean and sanitize plates, pots, pans, glasses, cups, bowls, utensils, and trays by applying sprays of detergent solution, with or without blasting media granules, and a sanitizing rinse. The phrase “commercial dishwasher” does not include dishwashers intended for consumer use as defined in 10 C.F.R. § 430.2.

(18) “Commercial fryer” means an appliance, including a cooking vessel, in which oil is placed to such a depth that the cooking food is supported by displacement of the cooking fluid rather than by the bottom of the vessel. Heat is delivered to the cooking fluid by means of an immersed electric element of band-wrapped vessel or by heat transfer from gas burners either through the walls of the fryer or through tubes passing through the cooking fluid.

(19) “Commercial hot-food holding cabinet” means a heated, fully enclosed compartment with one or more solid or transparent doors designed to maintain the temperature of hot food that has been cooked using a separate appliance. The phrase “commercial hot-food holding cabinet” does not include heated glass merchandizing cabinets, drawer warmers, or cook-and-hold appliances.

(20) “Commercial steam cooker” means a device with one or more food-steaming compartments in which the energy in the steam is transferred to the food by direct contact. A commercial steam cooker may also be known as a compartment steamer.

(21) “ENERGY STAR Program” means the federal program initiated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7403(g) that includes certification of energy-saving products, buildings, and tools, and includes other resources for saving energy.

(22) With respect to faucets and showerheads, the following definitions apply:

(A) “Faucet” means a lavatory faucet, kitchen faucet, metering faucet, public lavatory faucet, or replacement aerator for a lavatory, public lavatory, or kitchen faucet. As used in this subdivision (24)(A):

(i) “Metering faucet” means a fitting that, when turned on, will gradually shut itself off over a period of several seconds.

(ii) “Public lavatory faucet” means a fitting intended to be installed in nonresidential bathrooms that are exposed to walk-in traffic.

(iii) “Replacement aerator” means an aerator sold as a replacement, separate from the faucet to which it is intended to be attached.

(B) “Showerhead” means an accessory to a supply fitting for spraying water onto a bather, typically from an overhead position. The term includes a body spray and handheld shower. As used in this subdivision (22)(B):

(i) “Body spray” means a shower device for spraying water onto a bather other than from the overhead position.

(ii) “Handheld shower” means a showerhead that can be held or fixed in place for the purpose of spraying water onto a bather and that is connected to a flexible hose.

(23) “High color rendering index (CRI) fluorescent lamp” means a fluorescent lamp with a color rendering index of 87 or greater that is not a compact fluorescent lamp.

(24) “Luminaire” means a complete lighting unit consisting of a fluorescent lamp or lamps, together with parts designed to distribute the light, to position and protect such lamps, and to connect such lamps to the power supply through the ballast.

(25) With respect to portable air conditioners, the following definitions apply:

(A) “Portable air conditioner” means a portable encased assembly, other than a packaged terminal air conditioner, room air conditioner, or dehumidifier, that includes a source of refrigeration; delivers cooled, conditioned air to an enclosed space; and is powered by single-phase electric current. The assembly may include additional means for air circulation and heating and may be a single-duct or a dual-duct portable air conditioner.

(B) “Single-duct portable air conditioner” means a portable air conditioner that draws all of the condenser inlet air from the conditioned space without the means of a duct and discharges the condenser outlet air outside the conditioned space through a single duct attached to an adjustable window bracket.

(C) “Dual-duct portable air conditioner” means a portable air conditioner that draws some or all of the condenser inlet air from outside the conditioned space through a duct attached to an adjustable window bracket, may draw additional condenser inlet air from the conditioned space, and discharges the condenser outlet air outside the conditioned space by means of a separate duct attached to an adjustable window bracket.

(26) “Portable electric spa” means a factory-built electric spa or hot tub, which may or may not include any combination of integral controls, water heating, or water circulating equipment.

(27) “Residential ventilating fan” means a ceiling, wall-mounted, or remotely mounted in-line fan designed to be used in a bathroom or utility room whose purpose is to move air from inside the building to the outdoors.

(28) With respect to spray sprinkler bodies, the following definitions apply:

(A) “Pressure regulator” means a device that maintains constant operating pressure immediately downstream from the device, given higher pressure upstream.

(B) “Spray sprinkler body” means the exterior case or shell of a sprinkler incorporating a means of connection to the piping system designed to convey water to a nozzle or orifice.

(29) “T12 fluorescent lamp” means a tubular fluorescent lamp to which one of the following applies:

(A) The lamp has a nominal rating of 34 watts, is 48 inches in length and one and one-half inches in diameter, and conforms to ANSI standard C78.81-2003 (Data Sheet 7881-ANSI-1006-1). Such a lamp is often referred to as an “F34T12 lamp” or an “F40T12/ES lamp.”

(B) The lamp has a nominal rating of 40 watts, is 48 inches in length and one and one-half inches in diameter, and conforms to ANSI standard C78.81-2003 (Data Sheet 7881-ANSI-1010-1). Such a lamp is often referred to as an “F40T12 lamp.”

(C) The lamp has a nominal rating of 60 watts, is 96 inches in length and one and one-half inches in diameter, and conforms to ANSI standard C78.81-2003 (Data Sheet 7881-ANSI-3006-1). Such a lamp is often referred to as an “F96T12/ES lamp.”

(D) The lamp has a nominal rating of 75 watts, is 96 inches in length and one and one-half inches in diameter, and conforms to ANSI standard C78.81-2003 (Data Sheet 7881-ANSI-3007-1). Such a lamp is often referred to as an “F96T12 lamp.”

(E) The lamp has a nominal rating of 95 watts, is 96 inches in length and one and one-half inches in diameter, and conforms to ANSI standard C78.81-2003 (Data Sheet 7881-ANSI-1017-1). Such a lamp is often referred to as an “F96T12HO/ES lamp.”

(F) The lamp has a nominal rating of 110 watts, is 96 inches in length and one and one-half inches in diameter, and conforms to ANSI standard C78.81-2003 (Data Sheet 7881-ANSI-1019-1). Such a lamp is often referred to as an “F96T12HO lamp.”

(30) “Uninterruptible power supply” means a battery charger consisting of a combination of convertors, switches, and energy storage devices, such as batteries, constituting a power system that maintains continuity of load power in case of input power failure.

(31) With respect to urinals, the following definitions apply:

(A) “Plumbing fixture” means an exchangeable device that connects to a plumbing system to deliver and drain away water and waste.

(B) “Trough-type urinal” means a urinal designed for simultaneous use by two or more persons.

(C) “Urinal” means a plumbing fixture that receives only liquid body waste and conveys the waste through a trap into a drainage system.

(32) With respect to water coolers, the following definitions apply:

(A) “Cold-only unit” means a water cooler that dispenses cold water only.

(B) “Cook and cold unit” means a water cooler that dispenses both cold and room-temperature water.

(C) “Hot and cold unit” means a water cooler that dispenses both hot and cold water. A hot and cold unit also may dispense room-temperature water.

(D) “On demand” means that a water cooler heats water as it is requested, which typically takes a few minutes to deliver.

(E) “Storage-type” means that a water cooler stores thermally conditioned water in a tank and the conditioned water is available instantaneously. Storage-type water coolers include point-of-use, dry storage compartment, and bottled water coolers.

(F) “Water cooler” means a freestanding device that consumes energy to cool or heat potable water, or both.

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. § 2794 is amended to read:

§ 2794. SCOPE

(a) The provisions of this chapter apply to the following types of new products sold, offered for sale, or installed in the State:

- (1) Medium voltage dry-type distribution transformers.
- (2) Metal halide lamp fixtures.
- (3) Residential furnaces and residential boilers.
- (4) Single-voltage external AC to DC power supplies.
- (5) State-regulated incandescent reflector lamps.
- (6) General service lamps.
- (7) Air compressors.
- (8) Commercial dishwashers.
- (9) Commercial fryers.
- (10) Commercial hot-food holding cabinets.
- (11) Commercial steam cookers.
- (12) Computers and computer monitors.
- (13) Faucets.
- (14) High CRI fluorescent lamps.
- (15) Portable air conditioners.
- (16) Portable electric spas.
- (17) Residential ventilating fans.

(18) Showerheads.

(19) Spray sprinkler bodies.

(20) Uninterruptible power supplies.

(21) Urinals.

(22) Water coolers.

(23) Each other product for which the Commissioner is required to adopt an efficiency or water conservation standard by rule pursuant to section 2795 of this title.

~~(8)~~(24) Any other product that may be designated by the Commissioner in accordance with section 2797 of this title.

(b) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:

(1) New products manufactured in the State and sold outside the State and the equipment used in manufacturing those products.

(2) New products manufactured outside the State and sold at wholesale inside the State for final retail sale and installation outside the State.

(3) Products installed in mobile manufactured homes at the time of construction.

(4) Products designed expressly for installation and use in recreational vehicles.

Sec. 4. 9 V.S.A. § 2795 is amended to read:

§ 2795. EFFICIENCY AND WATER CONSERVATION STANDARDS

(a) The Commissioner shall adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 establishing minimum efficiency standards for the types of new products set forth in section 2794 of this title. The rules shall provide for the following minimum efficiency standards for products sold or installed in this State:

* * *

(4)(A) Single-voltage external AC to DC power supplies shall meet the energy efficiency requirements of the following table:

* * *

(C) For purposes of this subdivision (4), the efficiency of single-voltage external AC to DC power supplies shall be measured in accordance with the test methodology specified by the ~~U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star~~ ENERGY STAR Program, "Test Method for Calculating the Energy Efficiency of Single-Voltage External AC-DC and AC-AC Power Supplies (August 11, 2004)."

* * *

(6) In the rules, the Commissioner shall adopt minimum efficiency and water conservation standards for each product that is subject to a standard under 10 C.F.R. §§ 430 and 431 as those provisions existed on January 19, 2017. The minimum standard and the testing protocol for each product shall be the same as adopted in those sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, except that for faucets, showerheads, and urinals, the minimum standard and testing protocol shall be as otherwise set forth in this section.

(7) In the rules, the Commissioner shall adopt a minimum efficacy standard for general service lamps of 45 lumens per watt, when tested in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 430.23(gg) as that provision existed on January 19, 2017.

(8) In this subdivision (8), “final rule” means the document setting forth a final action by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with respect to a final rule for “Energy Conservation Standards for Air Compressors,” docket no. EERE-2013-BT-STD-0040, approved by DOE on December 5, 2016. Air compressors that meet the 12 criteria to be codified under 10 C.F.R. § 431.345(a) and set forth on pages 350 to 351 of the final rule shall meet the requirements contained in Table 1 on page 352 of the final rule using the instructions to be codified under 10 C.F.R. § 431.345(b) and set forth on page 353 of the final rule. Compliance with these requirements shall be measured in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 431, Subpart T, Appendix A, entitled “Uniform Test Method for Certain Air Compressors,” as in effect on July 3, 2017.

(9) Commercial dishwashers included in the scope of the “ENERGY STAR Program Requirements Product Specification for Commercial Dishwashers,” Version 2.0, shall meet the qualification criteria of that specification.

(10) Commercial fryers included in the scope of the “ENERGY STAR Program Requirements Product Specification for Commercial Fryers,” Version 2.0, shall meet the qualification criteria of that specification.

(11) Commercial hot-food holding cabinets shall have a maximum idle energy rate of 40 watts per cubic foot of interior volume, as determined by the “idle energy rate-dry test” in ASTM F2140-11, “Standard Test Method for Performance of Hot-Food Holding Cabinets,” ASTM International (2011). Interior volume shall be measured as prescribed in the “ENERGY STAR Program Requirements Product Specification for Commercial Hot-Food Holding Cabinets,” Version 2.0.

(12) Commercial steam cookers shall meet the requirements of the “ENERGY STAR Program Requirements Product Specification for Commercial Steam Cookers,” Version 1.2.

(13) Computers and computer monitors shall meet the requirements of 20 California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) § 1605.3(v) and compliance with these requirements shall be measured in accordance with test methods prescribed in 20 C.C.R. § 1604(v).

(A) For the purposes of this subdivision (13), terms used in the referenced portions of the C.C.R. shall be as defined in 20 C.C.R. § 1602.

(B) The rules shall define “computer” and “computer monitor” to have the same meaning as set forth in 20 C.C.R. § 1602(v).

(C) The referenced portions of the C.C.R. shall be those adopted on or before the effective date of this section. However, the Commissioner shall have authority to amend the rules so that the definitions of “computer” and “computer monitor” and the minimum efficiency standards for computers and computer monitors conform to subsequently adopted modifications to the referenced sections of the C.C.R.

(14) Faucets, except for metering faucets, and showerheads shall meet the standards set forth in this subdivision (14) when tested in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix S, entitled “Uniform Test Method for Measuring the Water Consumption of Faucets and Showerheads,” as in effect on January 3, 2017.

(A) Lavatory faucets and replacement aerators shall not exceed a maximum flow rate of 1.5 gallons per minute (gpm) at 60 pounds per square inch (psi).

(B) Residential kitchen faucets and replacement aerators shall not exceed a maximum flow rate of 1.8 gpm at 60 psi, with optional temporary flow of 2.2 gpm, provided they default to a maximum flow rate of 1.8 gpm at 60 psi after each use.

(C) Public lavatory faucets and replacement aerators shall not exceed a maximum flow rate of 0.5 gpm at 60 psi.

(D) Showerheads shall not exceed a maximum flow rate of 2.0 gpm at 80 psi.

(15) High CRI fluorescent lamps shall meet the minimum efficacy requirements contained in 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(n)(4) as that subdivision existed on January 3, 2017. Compliance with requirements shall be measured in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix R, entitled “Uniform Test Method for Measuring Average Lamp Efficacy (LE), Color

Rendering Index (CRI), and Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) of Electric Lamps,” as that appendix existed on January 3, 2017.

(16) Urinals, other than trough-type urinals and urinals designed and marketed exclusively for use at prisons or mental health facilities, shall have a maximum flush volume of 0.5 gallons per flush when tested in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix T, entitled “Uniform Test Method for Measuring the Water Consumption of Water Closets and Urinals,” as in effect on January 3, 2017 and shall pass the waste extraction test for water closets set forth in Sec. 7.10 of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standard A112.19.2-2013/CSA B.45.1, as that standard exists on the effective date of this section.

(17) Portable air conditioners shall have a Combined Energy Efficiency Ratio (CEER), that is greater than or equal to: $1.04 \times [\text{SACC}/(3.7177 \times \text{SACC}^{0.6384})]$.

(A) In this subdivision (17), “SACC” means seasonally adjusted cooling capacity expressed in British thermal units per hour.

(B) The CEER shall be measured in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix CC, entitled “Uniform Test Method for Measuring the Energy Consumption of Portable Air Conditioners,” as in effect on January 3, 2017.

(18) Portable electric spas shall meet the requirements of the American National Standard for Portable Electric Spa Energy Efficiency, ANSI/APSP/ICC-14 2014, as that standard exists on the effective date of this section.

(19) Residential ventilating fans shall meet the qualification criteria of the “ENERGY STAR Program Requirements Product Specification for Residential Ventilating Fans,” Version 3.2.

(20) Spray sprinkler bodies shall include an integral pressure regulator and shall meet the water efficiency and performance criteria and other requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency’s “WaterSense Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies,” Version 1.0. However, this subdivision (20) shall not apply to spray sprinkler bodies that are specifically excluded from the scope of that specification.

(21) In this subdivision (21), “final rule” means the document setting forth a final action by DOE with respect to a final rule for “Energy Conservation Standards for Uninterruptible Power Supplies,” docket no. EERE-2016-BT-STD-0022, approved by DOE on December 28, 2016. Uninterruptible power supplies that use a National Electrical Manufacturer Association (NEMA) 1-15P or 5-15P input plug and have an alternating

current (AC) output shall have an average load-adjusted efficiency that meets or exceed the values shown to be codified under 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(z)(3) and set forth on pages 193–194 of the final rule. Compliance with these requirements shall be measured in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix Y, entitled “Uniform Test Method for Measuring the Energy Consumption of Battery Chargers,” as in effect on January 11, 2017.

(22) Water coolers included in the scope of the “ENERGY STAR Program Requirements Product Specification for Water Coolers,” Version 2.0, shall have “on mode with no water draw” energy consumption less than or equal to the following values, measured in accordance with the test requirements of that specification:

(A) 0.16 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per day for cold-only units and cook and cold units;

(B) 0.87 kWh per day for storage type hot and cold units; and

(C) 0.18 kWh per day for on-demand hot and cold units.

(b) When a minimum efficiency standard as described in subsection (a) of this section sets forth requirements that change over time, the rules shall provide for compliance with the changed requirements as they come into effect.

(c) When a subdivision within subdivisions (a)(8) through (a)(22) of this section requires compliance with an efficiency standard or testing protocol contained in a document issued by an agency of the United States, another state, or a nationally or internationally recognized organization, the rules of the Commissioner may incorporate the specified standard or protocol by reference pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 838 rather than setting forth its language.

(d) With respect to computers and computer monitors subject to subdivision (a)(13) of this section, the Commissioner shall have authority to adopt official interpretations of the applicable efficiency standards published by the staff of the California Energy Commission (CEC). The rules shall state the process for such adoption and the manner in which the Commissioner will make the adopted interpretations publicly available.

Sec. 5. 9 V.S.A. § 2796 is amended to read:

§ 2796. IMPLEMENTATION

* * *

~~(d) One year after the date upon which the sale or offering for sale of certain products becomes subject to the requirements of subsection (a) or (b) of this section, no new products may be installed for compensation in the State unless the efficiency of a new product meets or exceeds the efficiency~~

standards set forth in the rules adopted pursuant to section 2795 of this title.

(1) On or after July 1, 2019, no new luminaire that is designed and marketed to operate with T12 fluorescent lamps may be sold or offered for sale in the State. This prohibition shall not apply to a luminaire that the seller purchased on or before June 30, 2019.

(2) On or after July 1, 2020, no new air compressor, commercial dishwasher, commercial fryer, commercial hot-food holding cabinet, commercial steam cooker, computer or computer monitor, high CRI fluorescent lamp, portable electric spa, residential ventilating fan, spray sprinkler body, uninterruptible power supply, or water cooler may be sold or offered for sale, lease, or rent in the State unless the efficiency of the new product meets or exceeds the efficiency standards set forth in the rules adopted pursuant to section 2795 of this title.

(3) On or after July 1, 2021, no new faucet, showerhead, or urinal may be sold or offered for sale, lease, or rent in the State unless the efficiency of the new product meets or exceeds the efficiency standards set forth in the rules adopted pursuant to section 2795 of this title.

(4) This subdivision governs the date after which no new portable air conditioner may be sold or offered for sale, lease, or rent in the State unless the efficiency of the new product meets or exceeds the efficiency standards set forth in the rules adopted pursuant to section 2795 of this title (the compliance date).

(A) The compliance date shall be on or after February 1, 2022, unless subdivision (B) of this subdivision (3) applies.

(B) If, prior to January 1, 2019, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has published a final rule in the Federal Register establishing efficiency standards for portable air conditioners and the rule has not been repealed, voided, or retracted, the compliance date shall be on or after the date as of which portable air conditioners are required to comply with the DOE rule.

(5) The prohibitions set forth in subdivisions (2) through (4) of this subsection shall not apply to a product that the seller or lessor purchased:

(A) in the case of a product listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection, on or before June 30, 2020;

(B) in the case of a faucet, showerhead, or urinal, on or before June 30, 2021; and

(C) in the case of a portable air conditioner, before the first date on which compliance is required under subdivision (4).

* * *

(f)(1) When federal preemption under 42 U.S.C. § 6297 applies to a standard adopted pursuant to this chapter for a product, the standard shall become enforceable on the occurrence of the earliest of the following:

(A) The federal energy or water conservation standard for the product under 42 U.S.C. chapter 77 is withdrawn, repealed, or otherwise voided. However, this subdivision (A) shall not apply to any federal energy or water conservation standard set aside by a court of competent jurisdiction upon the petition of a person who will be adversely affected, as provided in 42 U.S.C. § 6306(b).

(B) A waiver of federal preemption is issued pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 6297.

(2) The federal standard for general service lamps shall be considered to be withdrawn, repealed, or otherwise voided within the meaning of this subsection if it does not come into effect on January 20, 2020 pursuant to the actions published at 82 Fed. Reg. 7276 and 7333 (January 19, 2017).

(3) When a standard adopted pursuant to this chapter becomes enforceable under this subsection, a person shall not sell or offer for sale in the State a new product subject to the standard unless the efficiency or water conservation of the new product meets or exceeds the requirements set forth in the standard.

Sec. 6. RULEMAKING

On or before May 1, 2019, the Commissioner of Public Service shall file with the Secretary of State proposed rules to implement Secs. 2 through 4 of this act.

Sec. 7. 26 V.S.A. § 2173 is amended to read:

§ 2173. RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD

(a) ~~The plumber's examining board~~ Plumber's Examining Board may, pursuant to the ~~provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 (Administrative Procedure Act)~~ Administrative Procedure Act, make and revise such plumbing rules as necessary for protection of the public health, except that no rule of the ~~board~~ Board may require the installation or maintenance of a water heater at a minimum temperature. To the extent that a rule of the ~~board~~ Board conflicts with this subsection, that rule shall be invalid and unenforceable. The rules shall be in effect in every city, village, and town having a public water system or public sewerage system and apply to all premises connected to the systems and all public buildings containing plumbing or water treatment and heating specialties whether they are connected to a public water or sewerage system. ~~The local board of health and the commissioner of public safety~~ Commissioner of Public Safety shall each have authority to enforce these rules. The rules

shall be limited to minimum performance standards reasonably necessary for the protection of the public against accepted health hazards and shall be consistent with any minimum efficiency standards for plumbing fixtures adopted under 9 V.S.A. chapter 74. The board Board may, if it finds it practicable to do so, adopt the provisions of a nationally recognized plumbing code and as needed shall adopt a Vermont-specific amendment to the adopted code to ensure that it is consistent with any minimum efficiency standards for plumbing fixtures adopted under 9 V.S.A. chapter 74.

* * *

* * * Energy Planning * * *

Sec. 8. 30 V.S.A. § 202b is amended to read:

§ 202b. STATE COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN

(a) The Department of Public Service, in conjunction with other State agencies designated by the Governor, shall prepare a State Comprehensive Energy Plan covering at least a 20-year period. The Plan shall seek to implement the State energy policy set forth in section 202a of this title and shall be consistent with the relevant goals of 24 V.S.A. § 4302. The Plan shall include:

(1) a comprehensive analysis and projections regarding the use, cost, supply, and environmental effects of all forms of energy resources used within Vermont;

(2) recommendations for State implementation actions, regulation, legislation, and other public and private action to carry out the Comprehensive Energy Plan, including recommendations for State agency energy plans under 3 V.S.A. § 2291 and transportation planning under Title 19; and

(3) recommendations for regional and municipal energy planning and standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4352.

* * *

(e) The Commissioner of Public Service (Commissioner) shall file an annual report on progress in meeting the goals of the Plan. The report shall address each of the following sectors of energy consumption in the State: electricity, nonelectric fuels for thermal purposes, and transportation. In preparing the report, the Commissioner shall consult with the Secretaries of Administration, of Agriculture, Food and Markets, of Natural Resources, and of Transportation and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services.

(1) The Commissioner shall file the report on or before January 15 of each year, commencing in 2019. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) shall not apply to this report.

(2) The Commissioner shall file the report with the House Committees on Energy and Technology and on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and with the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy.

(3) For each sector, the report shall provide:

(A) In millions of British thermal units (MMBTUs) for the most recent calendar year for which data are available, the total amount of energy consumed, the amount of renewable energy consumed, and the percentage of renewable energy consumed. For the electricity sector, the report shall also state the amounts in megawatt hours (MWH) and the Vermont and New England summer and winter peak electric demand, including the hour and day of peak demand.

(B) Projections of the energy reductions and shift to renewable energy expected to occur under existing policies, technologies, and markets. The most recent available data shall be used to inform these projections and shall be provided as a supplement to the data described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3).

(C) Recommendations of policies to further the renewable energy goals set forth in statute and the Plan, along with an evaluation of the relative cost-effectiveness of different policy approaches.

(4) The report shall include a supplemental analysis setting forth how progress toward the goals of the Plan is supported by complementary work in avoiding or reducing energy consumption through efficiency and demand reduction. In this subdivision (4), “demand reduction” includes dispatchable measures, such as controlling appliances that consume energy, and nondispatchable measures, such as weatherization.

(5) The report shall include recommendations on methods to enhance the process for planning, tracking, and reporting progress toward meeting statutory energy goals and the goals of the Plan. Such recommendations may include the consolidation of one or more periodic reports filed by the Department or other State agencies relating to renewable energy, with proposals for amending the statutes relevant to those reports.

(6) The report shall include a summary of the following information for each sector:

(A) major changes in relevant markets, technologies, and costs;

(B) average Vermont prices compared to the other New England states, based on the most recent available data; and

(C) significant Vermont and federal incentive programs that are relevant to one or more of the sectors.

Sec. 9. 30 V.S.A. § 218c is amended to read:

§ 218c. LEAST-COST INTEGRATED PLANNING

* * *

(b) Each regulated electric or gas company shall prepare and implement a least-cost integrated plan for the provision of energy services to its Vermont customers. At least every third year on a schedule directed by the Public Utility Commission, each such company shall submit a proposed plan to the Department of Public Service and the Public Utility Commission. The Commission, after notice and opportunity for hearing, may approve a company's least-cost integrated plan if it determines that the company's plan complies with the requirements of subdivision (a)(1) of this section and of sections 8004 and 8005 of this title and is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Energy Plan issued under section 202b of this title.

* * *

Sec. 10. 19 V.S.A. § 10b is amended to read:

§ 10b. STATEMENT OF POLICY; GENERAL

(a) The Agency shall be the responsible agency of the State for the development of transportation policy. It shall develop a mission statement to reflect:

(1) that State transportation policy shall be to encompass, coordinate, and integrate all modes of transportation and to consider "complete streets" principles, which are principles of safety and accommodation of all transportation system users, regardless of age, ability, or modal preference; and

(2) the need for transportation projects that will improve the State's economic infrastructure, as well as the use of resources in efficient, coordinated, integrated, cost-effective, and environmentally sound ways, and that will be consistent with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) issued under 30 V.S.A. § 202b.

(b) The Agency shall coordinate planning and education efforts with those of the Vermont Climate Change Oversight Committee and those of local and regional planning entities:

(1) to ~~assure~~ ensure that the transportation system as a whole is integrated, that access to the transportation system as a whole is integrated, and that statewide, local, and regional conservation and efficiency opportunities and practices are integrated; and

(2) to support ~~employer~~ employer-led or local or regional government-led conservation, efficiency, rideshare, and bicycle programs and other innovative transportation advances, especially employer-based incentives.

(c) In developing the State's annual Transportation Program, the Agency shall, consistent with the planning goals listed in 24 V.S.A. § 4302 as amended by 1988 Acts and Resolves No. 200 and with appropriate consideration to local, regional, and State agency plans:

(1) Develop or incorporate designs that provide integrated, safe, and efficient transportation and that are consistent with the recommendations of the CEP.

* * *

Sec. 11. 19 V.S.A. § 10i is amended to read:

§ 10i. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

(a) Long-range systems plan. The ~~agency~~ Agency shall establish and implement a planning process through the adoption of a long-range multi-modal systems plan integrating all modes of transportation. The long-range multi-modal systems plan shall be based upon ~~agency~~ Agency transportation policy developed under section 10b of this title, other policies approved by the legislature, ~~agency~~ General Assembly, Agency goals, mission, and objectives, and demographic and travel forecasts, design standards, performance criteria, and funding availability. The long-range systems plan shall be developed with participation of the public, and local, and regional governmental entities, and pursuant to the planning goals and processes set forth in 1988 Acts and Resolves No. 200 of the Acts of the 1987 Adj. Sess. (1988). The plan shall be consistent with the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) issued under 30 V.S.A. § 202b.

* * *

(c) ~~Transportation program~~ Program. The ~~transportation program~~ Transportation Program shall be developed in a fiscally responsible manner to accomplish the following objectives:

(1) ~~Managing~~ managing, maintaining, and improving the state's State's existing transportation infrastructure to provide capacity, safety, and flexibility in the most cost-effective and efficient manner;

(2) ~~Developing~~ developing an integrated transportation system that provides Vermonters with transportation choices;

(3) ~~Strengthening~~ strengthening the economy, protecting the quality of the natural environment, and improving Vermonters' quality of life; and

(4) achieving the recommendations of the CEP.

* * *

Sec. 12. 3 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:

§ 2291. STATE AGENCY ENERGY PLAN

* * *

(c) The Secretary of Administration with the cooperation of the Commissioners of Public Service and of Buildings and General Services shall develop and oversee the implementation of a State Agency Energy Plan for State government. The Plan shall be adopted by June 30, 2005, modified as necessary, and readopted by the Secretary on or before January 15, 2010 and each sixth year subsequent to 2010. The Plan shall be consistent with the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) issued under 30 V.S.A. § 202b. The Plan shall accomplish the following objectives and requirements:

* * *

Sec. 13. REPORTS; ELECTRIC GENERATION CONSTRAINTS

(a) This section requires two written submissions on matters relating to electric generation, one from the Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission) and one from the Department of Public Service (DPS or Department). Each submission shall be made on or before January 15, 2019 to the House Committee on Energy and Technology and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy.

(b) The Commission has pending before it several contested cases raising issues pertaining to electric generation and the area of the Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface (SHEI) and a noncontested case proceeding related to the Standard Offer Program under 30 V.S.A. § 8005a in which the Commission may examine issues related to ensuring that standard offer projects are proposed in areas that do not result in additional costs to the electric transmission or distribution system or that provide the greatest benefit to the system. The Commission's written submission under this section shall include all of the following:

(1) For each of those contested cases, a summary of its findings and conclusions on the merits of the issue or issues in the case related to the SHEI area. This subdivision (1) does not require the Commission to provide a summary for a contested case in which it has not issued a final order on the merits.

(2) For the proceeding related to the Standard Offer Program, a summary of its decisions to date of the submission on issues related to siting standard offer projects in areas that do not result in additional costs to the electric transmission or distribution system or that provide the greatest benefit to the system.

(3) As attachments, a copy of each decision summarized.

(c) The Department shall submit a written report to assist the General Assembly, renewable energy developers, and electric utilities to plan for the deployment of renewable electric generation in a manner that is consistent with the goals, requirements, and programs related to renewable energy set forth or established in 30 V.S.A. chapter 89, the statutory goals for greenhouse gas reduction at 10 V.S.A. § 578, and the goals and recommendations of the 2016 Comprehensive Energy Plan.

(1) On each of the following, the report shall include analysis and recommendations that are consistent with those goals, requirements, and programs:

(A) How to manage demands on the State's electric transmission and distribution system that relate to or affect the deployment of renewable electric generation. The Department shall identify and review areas of the State, such as the SHEI area, in which generation that is interconnected to the electric transmission and distribution system faces constraints due to system capacity and conditions, including the relationship of interconnected generation to existing load;

(B) How to encourage the deployment of all types of renewable electric generation while minimizing curtailment of such generation.

(C) How to facilitate meeting the distributed renewable generation and energy transformation requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard at 30 V.S.A. §§ 8004–8005 in light of constraints identified under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1).

(D) The role of energy storage in the deployment of renewable electric generation.

(E) Recommended methods to guide where renewable electric generation should be located in the State;

(F) Recommended methods to guide the location in the State of end users that consume significant amounts of electric energy.

(G) Other relevant issues as determined by the Department.

(2) Prior to submitting this report, the Department shall provide an opportunity for written submission of relevant comments and information by the public and shall conduct one or more meetings at which the public may provide comments and information. The Department shall provide prior notice of the opportunity to submit comments and information and of each meeting to each Vermont electric transmission and distribution utility, Renewable Energy Vermont, each holder of a certificate of public good for an electric generation facility within the SHEI area with a capacity greater than 500 kilowatts, each entity appointed to deliver energy efficiency programs and

measures under 30 V.S.A. § 209(d), and any other person who requests such notice or whom the Department may determine to notify.

(3) With respect to the recommendations in the report, the Department shall identify those recommendations that require passage of enabling legislation and those recommendations that may be carried out under existing law. The report shall propose a timetable for implementation of the recommendations that may be carried out under existing law.

Sec. 14. RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD (RES) RULEMAKING

2015 Acts and Resolves No. 56, Sec. 8(d) is amended to read:

(d) On or before July 1, ~~2018~~ 2019, the ~~Board~~ Public Utility Commission shall commence rulemaking to implement Secs. 2, 3, and 7 of this act. The ~~Board~~ Commission shall finally adopt these rules within eight months of commencing rulemaking, unless this period is extended by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules under 3 V.S.A. § 843.

* * * Authority to Reserve Parking Spaces for Plug-in
Electric Vehicles * * *

Sec. 15. 23 V.S.A. § 1104 is amended to read:

§ 1104. STOPPING PROHIBITED

(a) Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with law or the directions of an enforcement officer or official traffic-control device, no person may:

* * *

(3) Park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or a passenger:

(A) within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;

(B) at any place where official signs prohibit parking;

(C) at any place where official signs restrict parking to specific sizes or types of vehicles or impose other restrictions and the vehicle violates the restrictions.

* * *

Sec. 16. 23 V.S.A. § 1106 is amended to read:

§ 1106. LIMITATIONS ON USE OF STATE HIGHWAY FACILITIES

(a) As used in this section, “State highway facility” means a State highway rest area, picnic ground, parking area, or park-and-ride facility.

(b) No person shall enter or remain on any State highway facility for the purpose of overnight camping unless the particular facility has been designated for that purpose by the Traffic Committee.

(c)(1) On the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation or findings as to adverse effects on the quiet enjoyment and property values of people living adjacent to a State highway facility, the Traffic Committee may designate the size and types of vehicles allowed to park in a State highway facility or in particular areas of a State highway facility.

(2) In addition, the Secretary may prescribe special restrictions related to parking of plug-in electric vehicles in designated areas of a State highway facility.

(d) Notice of the prohibitions or restrictions under this section shall be posted at the affected facilities by regulatory signs conforming to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Sec. 17. 23 V.S.A. § 1008a is amended to read:

§ 1008a. REGULATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES AT STATE AIRPORTS

(a)(1) The Secretary may adopt rules governing the operation, use, and parking of motor vehicles on the grounds of State airports, including the access roads.

(2) In addition, the Secretary may prescribe special restrictions related to parking of plug-in electric vehicles in designated areas on such grounds.

(b) Signs indicating the ~~special regulations~~ rules or restrictions shall be conspicuously posted in and near all areas affected.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 13 (reports; electric generation constraints) and 14 (RES rulemaking) shall take effect on passage.

(b) 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 appliance efficiency, energy planning, and electric vehicle parking.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for January 31, 2018, pages 213-224)

Proposal of amendment to H. 410 to be offered by Senator Rodgers

Senator Rodgers moves that the report of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy be amended as follows:

First: After Sec. 13 by inserting a new Sec. 13a to read as follows:

Sec. 13a. SHEFFIELD-HIGHGATE EXPORT INTERFACE

(a) The General Assembly finds that deployment of new electric generation in the area served by the Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface (SHEI) exacerbates utility system constraints that can result in curtailment of existing generation in the area, causing significant costs to Vermont ratepayers or the owners and operators of electric generation in the area, or both.

(b) On and after the effective date of this section through June 30, 2019, the Public Utility Commission shall not accept new applications under 30 V.S.A. § 248 for electric generation facilities that will interconnect with transmission or distribution lines in the area served by the SHEI, except for net metering systems with a capacity less than 15 kilowatts. The Commission shall demarcate the specific geographic scope of this area. The purpose of this subsection is to allow time for the completion of the submissions required by Sec. 13 of this act and the consideration by the General Assembly in the 2019 session of potential solutions to the constraints posed by conditions in the SHEI area.

Second: In Sec. 18 (effective dates), by striking out subsection (a) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read:

(a) This section and Secs. 13 (reports; electric generation constraints), 13a (Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface), and 14 (RES rulemaking) shall take effect on passage.

H. 663.

An act relating to municipal land use regulation of accessory on-farm businesses.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Collamore for the Committee on Agriculture.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 2, 24 V.S.A. § 4412, subdivision (11)(A)(i) (definition of accessory on-farm business), by striking out subdivision (II) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (II) to read:

(II) Educational, recreational, or social events that feature agricultural practices or qualifying products, or both. Such events may include

tours of the farm, farm stays, tastings and meals featuring qualifying products, and classes or exhibits in the preparation, processing, or harvesting of qualifying products. As used in this subdivision (II), “farm stay” means a paid, overnight guest accommodation on a farm for the purpose of participating in educational, recreational, or social activities on the farm that feature agricultural practices or qualifying products, or both. A farm stay includes the option for guests to participate in such activities.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 8, 2018, page 334)

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

The Committee recommends the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Agriculture with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 1 (purpose), after “General Assembly adopts” by inserting Sec. 2 of

Second: Following Sec. 2, 24 V.S.A. § 4412, by inserting a new Sec. 3 to read:

Sec. 3. 6 V.S.A. § 1113 is added to read:

§ 1113. ACCESSORY ON-FARM BUSINESSES; PESTICIDES; POSTING

When an agricultural pesticide is applied on a farm in an area in which an accessory on-farm business operates or conducts activity, the accessory on-farm business shall post the same warning signs that would be posted for agricultural workers under the rules of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency adopted pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. chapter 6, subchapter II (environmental pest control). The manner and duration of posting shall be the same as under those rules. As used in this section:

(1) “Accessory on-farm business” and “farm” shall have the same meaning as in 24 V.S.A. § 4412(11).

(2) “Agricultural pesticide” means any pesticide labeled for use in or on a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse.

And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

**Proposal of amendment to H. 663 to be offered by Senators Rodgers,
Bray, Campion, MacDonald and Pearson**

Senators Rodgers, Bray, Campion, MacDonald and Pearson move to amend the bill as recommended by the Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources and Energy with further proposal of amendment as follows:

By striking out Sec. 4 (effective date) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 4. PURPOSE

The purpose of this section and Secs. 5–6 of this act is to amend the laws of Vermont regarding the cultivation of industrial hemp to conform with federal requirements for industrial hemp research set forth in section 7606 of the federal Agricultural Act of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-79, codified at 7 U.S.C. § 5940.

Sec. 5. 6 V.S.A. chapter 34 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 34. HEMP

§ 561. FINDINGS; INTENT

(a) Findings.

(1) Hemp has been continuously cultivated for millennia, is accepted and available in the global marketplace, and has numerous beneficial, practical, and economic uses, including: high-strength fiber, textiles, clothing, ~~bio-fuel~~ biofuel, paper products, protein-rich food containing essential fatty acids and amino acids, biodegradable plastics, resins, nontoxic medicinal and cosmetic products, construction materials, rope, and value-added crafts.

(2) The many agricultural and environmental beneficial uses of hemp include: livestock feed and bedding, stream buffering, erosion control, water and soil purification, and weed control.

(3) The hemp plant, an annual herbaceous plant with a long slender stem ranging in height from four to 15 feet and a stem diameter of one-quarter to three-quarters of an inch is morphologically distinctive and readily identifiable as an agricultural crop grown for the cultivation and harvesting of its fiber and seed.

(4) Hemp cultivation will enable the State of Vermont to accelerate economic growth and job creation, promote environmental stewardship, and expand export market opportunities.

(5) The federal Agricultural Act of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-79 authorized the growing, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp, notwithstanding restrictions under the federal Controlled Substances Act, if certain criteria are satisfied.

(b) Purpose. The intent of this chapter is to establish policy and procedures for growing hemp in Vermont that comply with federal law so that farmers and other businesses in the Vermont agricultural industry can take advantage of this market opportunity.

§ 562. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) [Repealed.]

(2) “Hemp products” or “hemp-infused products” means all products made from hemp, including cloth, cordage, fiber, food, fuel, paint, paper, construction materials, plastics, seed, seed meal, seed oil, and certified seed for cultivation.

(3) “Hemp” or “industrial hemp” means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of the plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.

(4) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

§ 563. HEMP; AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT

~~Hemp~~ Industrial hemp is an agricultural product ~~which~~ that may be grown as a crop, produced, possessed, marketed, and commercially traded in Vermont pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. The cultivation of industrial hemp shall be subject to and comply with ~~the requirements of~~ the required agricultural practices adopted under section 4810 of this title.

§ 564. REGISTRATION; ADMINISTRATION; PILOT PROJECT

(a) The Secretary shall establish a pilot program to research the growth, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp. Under the pilot program, the Secretary shall register persons who will participate in the pilot program through growing or cultivating industrial hemp. The Secretary shall certify the site where industrial hemp will be cultivated by each person registered under this chapter. A person who intends to participate in the pilot program and grow industrial hemp shall register with the Secretary and submit on a form provided by the Secretary the following:

(1) the name and address of the person;

(2) a statement that the seeds obtained for planting are of a type and variety that do not exceed the maximum concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol set forth in subdivision 562(3) of this title; and

(3) the location and acreage of all parcels sown and other field reference information as may be required by the Secretary.

(b) The form provided by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include a notice statement that, ~~until current federal law is amended to provide otherwise:~~

(1) cultivation and possession of industrial hemp in Vermont is a violation of the federal Controlled Substances Act unless the industrial hemp is grown, cultivated, or marketed under a pilot program authorized by section 7606 of the federal Agricultural Act of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-79; and

(2) federal prosecution for growing hemp in violation of federal law may include criminal penalties, forfeiture of property, and loss of access to federal agricultural benefits, including agricultural loans, conservation programs, and insurance programs; and

(3) registrants may purchase or import hemp genetics from any state that complies with federal requirements for the cultivation of industrial hemp.

(c) A person registered with the Secretary pursuant to this section shall allow industrial hemp crops, throughout sowing, growing season, harvest, storage, and processing, to be inspected and tested by and at the discretion of the Secretary or ~~his or her~~ designee. The Secretary shall retain tests and inspection information collected under this section for the purposes of research of the growth and cultivation of industrial hemp.

(d) The Secretary may assess an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for the performance of his or her duties under this chapter.

§ 566. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

(a) The Secretary may adopt rules to provide for the implementation of this chapter and the pilot project authorized under this chapter, which may include rules to require hemp to be tested during growth for tetrahydrocannabinol levels and to require inspection and supervision of hemp during sowing, growing season, harvest, storage, and processing. The Secretary shall not adopt under this or any other section a rule that would prohibit a person to grow hemp based on the legal status of hemp under federal law.

(b) The Secretary shall adopt rules establishing how the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets will conduct research within the pilot program for industrial hemp.

(c) The Secretary shall adopt rules establishing requirements for the registration of processors of hemp and hemp-infused products.

Sec. 6. TRANSITION; IMPLEMENTATION

All persons registered prior to July 1, 2018 with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under 6 V.S.A. chapter 34 to grow or cultivate hemp shall be deemed to be registered with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food

and Markets as participants in the industrial hemp pilot project established by this act under 6 V.S.A. § 564, and those previously registered persons shall not be required to reregister with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Sec. 7. 6 V.S.A. §§ 567 and 568 are added to read:

§ 567. AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS; TESTING

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 and hemp-infused products;

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

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

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

§ 568. TEST RESULTS; ENFORCEMENT

(a) If the Secretary or a dispensary registered under 18 V.S.A. chapter 86 tests a hemp crop and the hemp has a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis, the person registered with the Secretary as growing the hemp crop shall:

(1) enter into an agreement with a dispensary registered under 18 V.S.A. chapter 86 for the separation of the delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol from the hemp crop, return of the hemp crop to the person registered with the Secretary, and retention of the separated delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol by the dispensary;

(2) sell the hemp crop to a dispensary registered under 18 V.S.A. chapter 86; or

(3) arrange for the Secretary to destroy or order the destruction of the hemp crop.

(b) A person registered with the Secretary as growing the hemp crop shall not be subject to civil, criminal, or administrative liability or penalty under 18 V.S.A. chapter 84 if the tested industrial hemp has a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of one percent or less on a dry weight basis.

(c) A crop or product confirmed by the Secretary to meet the definition of hemp under State or federal law may be sold or transferred in interstate commerce to the extent authorized by federal law.

Sec. 8. 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, process, 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.

* * *

(5) Acquire, possess, manufacture, process, transfer, transport, market, and test hemp provided by persons registered with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under 6 V.S.A. chapter 34 to grow or cultivate hemp.

* * *

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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

An act relating to municipal regulation of accessory on-farm businesses and to hemp cultivation.

H. 707.

An act relating to the prevention of sexual harassment.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 495h is amended to read:

§ 495h. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

(a)(1) All employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations have an obligation to ensure a workplace free of sexual harassment.

(2) All persons who engage a person to perform work or services have an obligation to ensure a working relationship with that person that is free from sexual harassment.

* * *

~~(c)(1) Employers shall provide individual copies of their written policies to current employees no later than November 1, 1993, and to new employees upon their being hired. Employers who have provided individual written notice to all employees within the 12 months prior to October 1, 1993, shall be exempt from having to provide an additional notice during the 1993 calendar year.~~

(2) If an employer makes changes to its policy against sexual harassment, it shall provide to all employees a written copy of the updated policy.

* * *

~~(f)(1) Employers and labor organizations are encouraged to conduct an education and training program within one year after September 30, 1993 for all current employees and members, and for all new employees and members thereafter within one year of commencement of employment, that includes at a minimum all the information outlined in this section within one year after commencement of employment.~~

(2) Employers and labor organizations are encouraged to conduct an annual education and training program for all employees and members that includes at a minimum all the information outlined in this section.

~~(3) Employers are encouraged to conduct additional training for current supervisory and managerial employees and members within one year of September 30, 1993, and for new supervisory and managerial employees and members within one year of after commencement of employment or membership, which should include at a minimum the information outlined in subsection (b) of this section and, the specific responsibilities of supervisory and managerial employees, and the methods actions that these employees must take to ensure immediate and appropriate corrective action in addressing sexual harassment complaints.~~

~~(4) Employers, labor organizations, and appropriate State agencies are encouraged to cooperate in making this training available.~~

(g)(1) An employer shall not require any employee or prospective employee, as a condition of employment, to sign an agreement or waiver that does either of the following:

(A) prohibits, prevents, or otherwise restricts the employee or prospective employee from opposing, disclosing, reporting, or participating in an investigation of sexual harassment; or

(B) except as otherwise permitted by State or federal law, purports to waive a substantive or procedural right or remedy available to the employee with respect to a claim of sexual harassment.

(2) Any provision of an agreement that violates subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be void and unenforceable.

(h)(1) An agreement to settle a claim of sexual harassment shall not prohibit, prevent, or otherwise restrict the employee from working for the employer or any parent company, subsidiary, division, or affiliate of the employer.

(2) An agreement to settle a sexual harassment claim shall expressly state that:

(A) it does not prohibit, prevent, or otherwise restrict the individual who made the claim from doing any of the following:

(i) lodging a complaint of sexual harassment committed by any person with the Attorney General, a State's Attorney, the Human Rights Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or any other State or federal agency;

(ii) testifying, assisting, or participating in any manner with an investigation related to a claim of sexual harassment conducted by the Attorney General, a State's Attorney, the Human Rights Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or any other State or federal agency;

(iii) complying with a valid request for discovery in relation to civil litigation or testifying in a hearing or trial related to a claim of sexual harassment that is conducted by a court, pursuant to an arbitration agreement, or before another appropriate tribunal; or

(iv) exercising any right the individual may have pursuant to State or federal labor relations laws to engage in concerted activities with other employees for the purposes of collective bargaining or mutual aid and protection; and

(B) it does not waive any rights or claims that may arise after the date the settlement agreement is executed.

(3) Any provision of an agreement to settle a sexual harassment claim that violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection shall be void and unenforceable with respect to the individual who made the claim.

(4) Nothing in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be construed to prevent an agreement to settle a sexual harassment claim from waiving or releasing the claimant's right to seek or obtain any remedies relating to sexual

harassment of the claimant by another party to the agreement that occurred before the date on which the agreement is executed.

(i)(1)(A)(i) For the purpose of assessing compliance with the provisions of this section, the Attorney General or designee, or, if the employer is the State, the Human Rights Commission or designee, may, with 48 hours' notice, at reasonable times and without unduly disrupting business operations enter and inspect any place of business or employment, question any person who is authorized by the employer to receive or investigate complaints of sexual harassment, and examine an employer's records, policies, procedures, and training materials related to the prevention of sexual harassment and the requirements of this section.

(ii) An employer may agree to waive or shorten the 48-hour notice period.

(iii) As used in this subsection (i), the term "records" includes de-identified data regarding the number of complaints of sexual harassment received and the resolution of each complaint.

(B) The employer shall at reasonable times and without unduly disrupting business operations make any persons who are authorized by the employer to receive or investigate complaints of sexual harassment and any records, policies, procedures, and training materials related to the prevention of sexual harassment and the requirements of this section available to the Attorney General or designee or, if the employer is the State, the Human Rights Commission or designee.

(2) Following an inspection and examination pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (i), the Attorney General or the Human Rights Commission shall notify the employer of the results of the inspection and examination, including any issues or deficiencies identified, provide resources regarding practices and procedures for the prevention of sexual harassment that the employer may wish to adopt or utilize, and identify any technical assistance that the Attorney General or the Human Rights Commission may be able to provide to help the employer address any identified issues or deficiencies. If the Attorney General or the Human Rights Commission determines that it is necessary to ensure the employer's workplace is free from sexual harassment, the employer may be required, for a period of up to three years, to provide an annual education and training program that satisfies the provisions of subsection (f) of this section to all employees or to conduct an annual, anonymous working-climate survey, or both.

(3)(A) The Attorney General shall keep records, materials, and information related to or obtained through an inspection carried out pursuant to this subsection (i) confidential as provided pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 2460(a)(4).

(B) The Human Rights Commission shall keep records, materials, and information related to or obtained through an inspection carried out pursuant to this subsection (i) confidential as provided pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4555.

(j) The Attorney General shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. § 495b is amended to read:

§ 495b. PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

(a)(1) The Attorney General or a State's Attorney may enforce the provisions of this subchapter by restraining prohibited acts, seeking civil penalties, obtaining assurances of discontinuance, and conducting civil investigations in accordance with the procedures established in 9 V.S.A. §§ 2458-2461 as though an unlawful employment practice were an unfair act in commerce. Any employer, employment agency, or labor organization complained against shall have the same rights and remedies as specified therein. The Superior Courts are authorized to impose the same civil penalties and investigation costs and to order other relief to the State of Vermont or an aggrieved employee for violations of this subchapter as they are authorized to impose or order under the provisions of 9 V.S.A. §§ 2458 and 2461 in an unfair act in commerce. In addition, the Superior Courts may order restitution of wages or other benefits on behalf of an employee and may order reinstatement and other appropriate relief on behalf of an employee.

(2) Any charge or formal complaint filed by the Attorney General or a State's Attorney against a person for unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall include a statement setting forth the prohibition against retaliation pursuant to subdivision 495(a)(8) of this title.

* * *

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. § 4552 is amended to read:

§ 4552. DUTIES; JURISDICTION

* * *

(b)(1) The Commission shall have jurisdiction to investigate and enforce complaints of unlawful discrimination in violation of chapter 139 of this title, discrimination in public accommodations and rental and sale of real estate. The Commission shall also have jurisdiction when the party complained against is a State agency in matters for which the Attorney General would otherwise have jurisdiction under subsection (c) of this section.

(2) In any case relating to unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment in violation of 21 V.S.A. § 495 et seq. that the Commission has jurisdiction over pursuant to this subsection, it shall include a statement setting forth the prohibition against retaliation pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 495(a)(8) with any formal complaint that is sent to a respondent.

(c) All complaints of unlawful discrimination in violation of 21 V.S.A. §§ 495 et seq. and 710, the Fair Employment Practices Act and the provisions for workers' compensation discrimination, respectively, and of 21 V.S.A. § 471 et seq. shall be referred to the Attorney General's office, for investigation and enforcement.

Sec. 4. ATTORNEY GENERAL; HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION;
ENHANCED REPORTING OF DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL
HARASSMENT

(a) On or before December 15, 2018, the Attorney General and the Human Rights Commission shall develop and implement enhanced mechanisms for employees and members of the public to submit complaints of discrimination and sexual harassment in employment or in the course of a working relationship.

(b) The methods shall include, at a minimum, an easy-to-use portal on the Attorney General's or Human Rights Commission's website and a telephone hotline. Each method shall provide a clear statement that information submitted may be referred to the Office of the Attorney General, a State's Attorney, the Vermont Human Rights Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or another State or federal agency that has jurisdiction over the complaint.

Sec. 5. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH; VERMONT
COMMISSION ON WOMEN

(a) On or before December 15, 2018, the Vermont Commission on Women, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Human Rights Commission, shall develop a public education and outreach program that is designed to make Vermont employees, employers, businesses, and members of the public aware of:

(1) methods for reporting employment and work-related discrimination and sexual harassment;

(2) where to find information regarding:

(A) the laws related to employment and work-related discrimination and sexual harassment; and

(B) best practices for preventing employment and work-related discrimination and sexual harassment; and

(3) methods for preventing and addressing sexual harassment in the workplace.

(b) The sum of \$125,000.00 is appropriated to the Vermont Commission on Women for the purpose of creating and implementing the public education and outreach program.

(c) The program may include:

- (1) public service announcements;
- (2) print and electronic advertisements;
- (3) web-based and electronic training materials;
- (4) printed informational and training materials;
- (5) model educational programs and curricula; and
- (6) in-person seminars and workshops.

Sec. 6. REPORT REGARDING ENHANCED REPORTING MECHANISMS

On or before January 15, 2020, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Human Rights Commission and the Vermont Commission on Women, shall submit to the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report regarding the implementation of the enhanced reporting mechanisms for instances of employment and work-related discrimination and sexual harassment. The report shall include:

(1) a detailed description of how any existing reporting mechanisms were enhanced and any new reporting mechanisms that were implemented;

(2) a summary of changes, if any, in the annual number of complaints of employment and work-related discrimination and sexual harassment received and the number of complaints resulting in an investigation, settlement, or State court action during calendar years 2018 and 2019 in comparison to calendar years 2016 and 2017;

(3) the number of employees and other persons that reported employment or work-related discrimination or sexual harassment to their employer, supervisor, or the person for whom they were working prior to making a complaint in comparison to the number that did not, and the reasons that employees and other persons gave for not reporting the discrimination or sexual harassment to their employer, supervisor, or the person for whom they were working prior to making a complaint; and

(4) any suggestion for legislative action to enhance further the reporting mechanisms or to reduce the amount of employment and work-related discrimination and sexual harassment.

Sec. 7. 21 V.S.A. § 495n is added to read:

§ 495n. SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS; NOTICE TO
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

(a) A person that files a claim of sexual harassment pursuant to section 495b of this subchapter in which neither the Attorney General nor the Human Rights Commission is a party shall provide notice of the action to the Attorney General and the Human Rights Commission within 14 days after filing the complaint. The notice may be submitted electronically and shall include a copy of the filed complaint.

(b)(1) Upon receiving notice of a complaint in which the State is a party, the Human Rights Commission may elect to:

(A) intervene in the action to seek remedies pursuant to section 495b of this subchapter; or

(B) without becoming a party to the action, file a statement with the court addressing questions of law related to the provisions of this subchapter.

(2) Upon receiving notice of a complaint in which the State is not a party, the Attorney General may elect to:

(A) intervene in the action to seek remedies pursuant to section 495b of this subchapter; or

(B) without becoming a party to the action, file a statement with the court addressing questions of law related to the provisions of this subchapter.

Sec. 8. COMMISSIONER OF LABOR; POSTER

On or before September 15, 2018, the Commissioner of Labor shall update the model policy and model poster created pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 495h(d) to reflect the provisions of this act.

Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 348 is added to read:

§ 348. PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT; TRAINING

The Secretary of Administration shall include in the terms and conditions of all contracts for services a requirement that the contractor shall:

(1) conduct an annual education and training program for all employees performing services pursuant to the contract that addresses, at a minimum, all of the information outlined in 21 V.S.A. § 495h;

(2) conduct an additional education and training program for all supervisory and managerial employees who are performing services pursuant to the contract or supervising or managing employees performing services pursuant to the contract that includes, at a minimum, the information outlined in 21 V.S.A. § 495h, the specific responsibilities of the supervisory and managerial employees with respect to the prevention of sexual harassment, and the actions that the employees must take to ensure immediate and appropriate corrective action in addressing sexual harassment complaints; and

(3) provide to the Secretary of Administration annual written certification of compliance with the sexual harassment prevention training requirements of this section.

Sec. 10. PRIOR HARASSMENT CLAIMS; IDENTIFICATION; RELEASE FROM NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2019, the Office of Legislative Council shall submit a written report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs that examines mechanisms to:

(1) provide the Attorney General and the Human Rights Commission with notice of agreements to settle sexual harassment claims that contain a provision that prohibits or restricts the individual who made the claim from disclosing information related to the claim of sexual harassment; and

(2) render provisions of agreements to settle sexual harassment claims that prohibit or restrict the individual who made the claim from disclosing information related to the claim of sexual harassment void and unenforceable if, in relation to a separate claim, the alleged harasser is later adjudicated by a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction to have engaged in sexual harassment or retaliation in relation to a claim of sexual harassment.

(b) In particular, the report shall:

(1) identify potential mechanism to accomplish the potential changes described in subdivisions (a)(1) and (2) of this section;

(2) review and examine laws and pending legislation in other states that are related to subdivisions (a)(1) and (2) of this section;

(3) identify and examine potential legal issues, advantages, disadvantages, and obstacles to the mechanisms identified; and

(4) identify and examine any alternative mechanisms that would accomplish substantially similar policy outcomes to the potential changes described in subdivisions (a)(1) and (2) of this section.

(c) The Office of Legislative Council shall consult with the Attorney General's Office and the Human Rights Commission when preparing this report.

(d) As used in this section, "information related to the claim of sexual harassment" does not include the specific terms of the related settlement agreement or the amount of any monetary settlement.

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 13, 2018, pages 610-617)

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

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 5, public education and outreach, in subsection (b), after the words "Vermont Commission on Women" by inserting the following: from the General Fund in fiscal year 2018 to carry forward to fiscal year 2019

Second: By striking out Sec. 11, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 11 to read as follows:

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and, in Sec. 5, subsection (b) shall take effect on passage. The remaining provisions of Sec. 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(b) The remaining sections of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-1-1)

Proposal of amendment to H. 707 to be offered by Senators Balint, Baruth, Clarkson, Sirotkin and Soucy

Senators Balint, Baruth, Clarkson, Sirotkin and Soucy move that the report of the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs be amended by striking out Sec. 9, 3 V.S.A. § 348, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof:

Sec. 9. [Deleted.]

H. 728.

An act relating to bail reform.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 7551 is amended to read:

§ 7551. IMPOSITION OF BAIL, SECURED APPEARANCE BONDS, AND APPEARANCE BONDS;~~GENERALLY~~

(a) Bonds; generally. A bond given by a person charged with a criminal offense or by a witness in a criminal prosecution under section 6605 of this title, conditioned for the appearance of the person or witness before the court in cases where the offense is punishable by fine or imprisonment, and in appealed cases, shall be taken to the Criminal Division of the Superior Court where the prosecution is pending, and shall remain binding upon parties until discharged by the court or until sentencing. The person or witness shall appear at all required court proceedings.

(b) Limitation on imposition of bail, secured appearance bonds, and appearance bonds.

(1) No bond may be imposed Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no bail, secured appearance bond, or appearance bond may be imposed:

(A) at the initial appearance of a person charged with a misdemeanor if the person was cited for the offense in accordance with Rule 3 of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure; or

(B) at the initial appearance or upon the temporary release pursuant to Rule 5(b) of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure of a person charged with a violation of a misdemeanor offense that is eligible for expungement pursuant to subdivision 7601(4)(A) of this title.

(2) In the event the court finds that imposing bail is necessary to mitigate the risk of flight from prosecution for a person charged with a violation of a misdemeanor offense that is eligible for expungement pursuant to subdivision 7601(4)(A) of this title, the court may impose bail in a maximum amount of \$200.00.

(3) This subsection shall not be construed to restrict the court's ability to impose conditions on such persons to reasonably ensure his or her appearance

~~at future proceedings~~ mitigate the risk of flight from prosecution or to reasonably protect the public in accordance with section 7554 of this title.

Sec. 2. Rule 3(k) of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure is amended to read:

(k) Temporary Release. A ~~Either a law enforcement officer arresting a person or the prosecuting attorney~~ shall contact a judicial officer for determination of temporary release pursuant to Rule 5(b) of these rules without unnecessary delay. The law enforcement officer or prosecuting attorney shall provide the judicial officer with the information and affidavit or sworn statement required by Rule 4(a) of these rules.

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 7554 is amended to read:

§ 7554. RELEASE PRIOR TO TRIAL

(a) Release; conditions of release. Any person charged with an offense, other than a person held without bail under section 7553 or 7553a of this title, shall at his or her appearance before a judicial officer be ordered released pending trial in accordance with this section.

(1) The defendant shall be ordered released on personal recognizance or upon the execution of an unsecured appearance bond in an amount specified by the judicial officer unless the judicial officer determines that such a release will not reasonably ~~ensure the appearance of the person~~ mitigate the risk of flight from prosecution as required. In determining whether the defendant presents a risk of ~~nonappearance~~ flight from prosecution, the judicial officer shall consider, in addition to any other factors, the seriousness of the offense charged and the number of offenses with which the person is charged. If the officer determines that ~~such a release will not reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant as required~~ the defendant presents a risk of flight from prosecution, the officer shall, either in lieu of or in addition to the methods of release in this section, impose the least restrictive of the following conditions or the least restrictive combination of the following conditions that will reasonably ~~ensure the appearance~~ mitigate the risk of flight of the defendant as required:

(A) Place the defendant in the custody of a designated person or organization agreeing to supervise him or her if the defendant is charged with an offense that is not a nonviolent misdemeanor or nonviolent felony as defined in 28 V.S.A. § 301.

(B) Place restrictions on the travel, or association, ~~or place of abode~~ of the defendant during the period of release.

(C) Require the defendant to participate in an alcohol or drug treatment program. The judicial officer shall take into consideration the

defendant's ability to comply with an order of treatment and the availability of treatment resources.

(D) ~~Require~~ Upon consideration of the defendant's financial means, require the execution of a secured appearance bond in a specified amount and the deposit with the clerk of the ~~Court~~ court, in cash or other security as directed, of a sum not to exceed 10 percent of the amount of the bond, such deposit to be returned upon the appearance of the defendant as required.

(E) ~~Require~~ Upon consideration of the defendant's financial means, require the execution of a surety bond with sufficient solvent sureties, or the deposit of cash in lieu thereof.

(F) Impose any other condition found reasonably necessary to ~~ensure appearance~~ mitigate the risk of flight as required, including a condition requiring that the defendant return to custody after specified hours.

(G) Place the defendant in a program of community-based electronic monitoring in accordance with section 7554d of this title.

(2) If the judicial officer determines that conditions of release imposed to ~~ensure appearance~~ mitigate the risk of flight will not reasonably protect the public, the judicial officer may impose in addition the least restrictive of the following conditions or the least restrictive combination of the following conditions that will reasonably ensure protection of the public:

(A) Place the defendant in the custody of a designated person or organization agreeing to supervise him or her if the defendant is charged with an offense that is not a nonviolent misdemeanor or nonviolent felony as defined in 28 V.S.A. § 301.

(B) Place restrictions on the travel, association, or place of abode of the defendant during the period of release.

(C) Require the defendant to participate in an alcohol or drug treatment program. The judicial officer shall take into consideration the defendant's ability to comply with an order of treatment and the availability of treatment resources.

(D) Impose any other condition found reasonably necessary to protect the public, except that a physically restrictive condition may only be imposed in extraordinary circumstances.

(E) ~~If the defendant is a State, county, or municipal officer charged with violating section 2537 of this title, the court may suspend~~ Suspend the officer's duties in whole or in part, if the defendant is a State, county, or municipal officer charged with violating section 2537 of this title and the court finds that it is necessary to protect the public.

(F) Place the defendant in a program of community-based electronic monitoring in accordance with section 7554d of this title.

(3) A judicial officer may order that a defendant not harass or contact or cause to be harassed or contacted a victim or potential witness. This order shall take effect immediately, regardless of whether the defendant is incarcerated or released.

(b) Judicial considerations in imposing conditions of release. In determining which conditions of release to impose ~~under subsection:~~

(1) In subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the judicial officer, on the basis of available information, shall take into account the nature and circumstances of the offense charged; the weight of the evidence against the accused; the accused's employment; financial resources, including the accused's ability to post bail; the accused's character and mental condition; the accused's length of residence in the community; and the accused's record of appearance at court proceedings or of flight to avoid prosecution or failure to appear at court proceedings.

(2) In subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the judicial officer shall, on the basis of available information, shall take into account the nature and circumstances of the offense charged, the weight of the evidence against the accused, the accused's family ties, employment, ~~financial resources,~~ character and mental condition, ~~the~~ length of residence in the community, record of convictions, and record of appearance at court proceedings or of flight to avoid prosecution or failure to appear at court proceedings. Recent history of actual violence or threats of violence may be considered by the judicial officer as bearing on the character and mental condition of the accused.

(c) Order. A judicial officer authorizing the release of a person under this section shall issue an appropriate order containing a statement of the conditions imposed, if any;² shall inform such person of the penalties applicable to violations of the conditions of release; and shall advise him or her that a warrant for his or her arrest will be issued immediately upon any such violation.

(d) Review of conditions.

(1) A person for whom conditions of release are imposed and who is detained as a result of his or her inability to meet the conditions of release or who is ordered released on a condition that he or she return to custody after specified hours, or the State, following a material change in circumstances, shall, within 48 hours ~~of~~ following application, be entitled to have the conditions reviewed by a judge in the court having original jurisdiction over the offense charged. A person party applying for review shall be given the

opportunity for a hearing. Unless the conditions of release are amended as requested, the judge shall set forth in writing or orally on the record a reasonable basis for continuing the conditions imposed. In the event that a judge in the court having original jurisdiction over the offense charged is not available, any Superior judge may review such conditions.

(2) A person for whom conditions of release are imposed shall, within five working days of following application, be entitled to have the conditions reviewed by a judge in the court having original jurisdiction over the offense charged. A person applying for review shall be given the opportunity for a hearing. Unless the conditions of release are amended as requested, the judge shall set forth in writing or orally on the record a reasonable basis for continuing the conditions imposed. In the event that a judge in the court having original jurisdiction over the offense charged is not available, any Superior judge may review such conditions.

(e) Amendment of order. A judicial officer ordering the release of a person on any condition specified in this section may at any time amend the order to impose additional or different conditions of release, provided that the provisions of subsection (d) of this section shall apply.

(f) Definition. The term “judicial officer” as used in this section and section 7556 of this title shall mean a clerk of a Superior Court or a Superior Court judge.

(g) Admissibility of evidence. Information stated in, or offered in connection with, any order entered pursuant to this section need not conform to the rules pertaining to the admissibility of evidence in a court of law.

(h) Forfeiture. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prevent the disposition of any case or class of cases by forfeiture of collateral security ~~where~~ if such disposition is authorized by the court.

(i) Forms. The Court Administrator shall establish forms for appearance bonds, secured appearance bonds, surety bonds, and for use in the posting of bail. Each form shall include the following information:

(1) The bond or bail may be forfeited in the event that the defendant or witness fails to appear at any required court proceeding.

(2) The surety or person posting bond or bail has the right to be released from the obligations under the bond or bail agreement upon written application to the judicial officer and detention of the defendant or witness.

(3) The bond will continue through sentencing in the event that bail is continued after final adjudication.

(j) Juveniles. Any juvenile between 14 and 16 years of age who is charged

with a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title shall appear before a judicial officer and be ordered released pending trial in accordance with this section within 24 hours of following the juvenile's arrest.

Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A. § 7575 is amended to read:

§ 7575. REVOCATION OF THE RIGHT TO BAIL

The right to bail may be revoked entirely if the judicial officer finds that the accused has:

(1) intimidated or harassed a victim, potential witness, juror, or judicial officer in violation of a condition of release; or

(2) repeatedly violated conditions of release in a manner that impedes the prosecution of the accused; or

(3) violated a condition or conditions of release ~~which~~ that constitute a threat to the integrity of the judicial system; or

(4) without just cause, failed to appear at a specified time and place ordered by a judicial officer; or

(5) in violation of a condition of release, been charged with a felony or a crime against a person or an offense like similar to the underlying charge, for which, after hearing, probable cause is found.

Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 7576 is amended to read:

§ 7576. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(9) "Flight from prosecution" means any action or behavior undertaken by a person charged with a criminal offense to avoid court proceedings.

Sec. 6. INCARCERATION RATES OF PEOPLE OF COLOR; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Study Committee. The Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, and the Director of the Vermont State Police shall meet during the 2018 legislative interim to examine data regarding people of color who are incarcerated in Vermont. To the extent possible, the Committee shall also review data regarding people of color incarcerated in Maine and New Hampshire.

(b) On or before October 15, 2018, the committee shall report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee on:

(1) data regarding all nonwhite offenders in the custody of the Department of Corrections, including:

(A) demographic information about the offender, including race and ethnicity and all known places of residence;

(B) the crime or crimes for which the offender is serving a sentence or being detained; and

(C) the length of the sentence being served by the offender or the length of his or her detention;

(2) sentence length comparison data between white and nonwhite offenders who committed the same offense; and

(3) comparison data among Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire regarding sentence lengths and incarceration rates of people of color.

Sec. 7. 13 V.S.A. § 7554b is amended to read:

§ 7554b. HOME DETENTION PROGRAM

(a) Definition. As used in this section, “home detention” means a program of confinement and supervision that restricts a defendant to a preapproved residence continuously, except for authorized absences, and is enforced by appropriate means of surveillance and electronic monitoring by the Department of Corrections. The court may authorize scheduled absences such as for work, school, or treatment. Any changes in the schedule shall be solely at the discretion of the Department of Corrections. A defendant who is on home detention shall remain in the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections with conditions set by the court.

(b) Procedure. At the request of the court, the Department of Corrections, or the defendant, the status of a defendant who is detained pretrial in a correctional facility for ~~lack of~~ inability to pay bail after bail has been set by the court may be reviewed by the court to determine whether the defendant is appropriate for home detention. The review shall be scheduled upon the court’s receipt of a report from the Department determining that the proposed residence is suitable for the use of electronic monitoring. A defendant held without bail pursuant to section 7553 or 7553a of this title shall not be eligible for release to the Home Detention Program on or after June 1, 2018. At arraignment or after a hearing, the court may order that the defendant be released to the Home Detention Program, ~~providing~~ provided that the court finds placing the defendant on home detention will reasonably assure his or her appearance in court when required and the proposed residence is appropriate for home detention. In making such a determination, the court shall consider:

(1) the nature of the offense with which the defendant is charged;

(2) the defendant's prior convictions, history of violence, medical and mental health needs, history of supervision, and risk of flight; and

(3) any risk or undue burden to other persons who reside at the proposed residence or risk to third parties or to public safety that may result from such placement.

* * *

Sec. 8. JOINT LEGISLATIVE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE;
HOME DETENTION PROGRAM REVIEW

During the 2018 legislative interim, the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee shall evaluate the Home Detention Program established under 13 V.S.A. § 7554b and recommend how to improve and expand the Program and what entity should manage the Program. Any resulting legislative recommendations shall be introduced as a bill in the 2019 legislative session.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 2, 2018, pages 562-567)

H. 731.

An act relating to miscellaneous workers' compensation and occupational safety amendments.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Workers' Compensation; Protection Against Retaliation * * *

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 710 is amended to read:

§ 710. UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION

(a) No person, firm, or corporation shall refuse to employ any applicant for employment because ~~such~~ the applicant asserted a claim for workers' compensation benefits under this chapter or under the law of any state or of the United States. Nothing in this section shall require a person to employ an applicant who does not meet the qualifications of the position sought.

(b) No person shall discharge or discriminate against an employee from employment because ~~such~~ the employee asserted or attempted to assert a claim for benefits under this chapter or under the law of any state or of the United States.

(c) The Department shall not include in any publication or public report the name or contact information of any individual who has alleged that an employer has made a false statement or misclassified any employees, unless it is required by law or necessary to enable enforcement of this chapter.

(d) An employer shall not retaliate or take any other negative action against an individual because the employer knows or suspects that the individual has filed a complaint ~~with the Department or other authority~~, or reported a violation of this chapter, or has testified, assisted, or cooperated in any manner with the Department or other appropriate governmental agency or department in an investigation of misclassification, discrimination, or other violation of this chapter.

(e) The Attorney General or a State's Attorney may enforce the provisions of this section by restraining prohibited acts, seeking civil penalties, obtaining assurances of discontinuance, and conducting civil investigations in accordance with the procedures established in 9 V.S.A. §§ 2458-2461 as though ~~discrimination under a violation of~~ this section were an unfair act in commerce.

(f) The provisions against retaliation in subdivision 495(a)(8) of this title and the penalty and enforcement provisions of section 495b of this title shall apply to this ~~subchapter~~ section.

* * * Workers' Compensation Administration Fund * * *

Sec. 2. WORKERS' COMPENSATION RATE OF CONTRIBUTION

For fiscal year 2019, after consideration of the formula in 21 V.S.A. § 711(b) and historical rate trends, the General Assembly has established that the rate of contribution for the direct calendar year premium for workers' compensation insurance shall remain at the rate of 1.4 percent. The contribution rate for self-insured workers' compensation losses and workers' compensation losses of corporations approved under 21 V.S.A. chapter 9 shall remain at one percent.

Sec. 3. POTENTIAL DELEGATION OF RATE SETTING AUTHORITY; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2019, the Commissioner of Labor shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance

regarding the potential for delegating the authority to set the Workers' Compensation Administration Fund rate of contribution for the direct calendar year premium for workers' compensation insurance to the Commissioner of Labor. In particular, the report shall:

(1) describe how the Department calculates the rate of contribution that it annually proposes to the General Assembly pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 711(b);

(2) identify any advantages and disadvantages of the General Assembly's delegating to the Commissioner of Labor authority to establish annually the rate of contribution for the direct calendar year premium for workers' compensation insurance; and

(3) identify any legislative, regulatory, and administrative changes that would need to be made in order to delegate to the Commissioner the authority to establish annually the rate of contribution for the direct calendar year premium for workers' compensation insurance.

* * * Discontinuance of Workers' Compensation Benefits * * *

Sec. 4. 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 199, Sec. 54a is amended to read:

Sec. 54a. REPEAL

21 V.S.A. § 643a shall be repealed on July 1, ~~2018~~ 2023.

Sec. 5. 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 199, Sec. 69 is amended to read:

Sec. 69. EFFECTIVE DATES

* * *

(b) Sec. 54b (reinstatement of current law governing discontinuance of workers' compensation insurance benefits) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2018~~ 2023.

* * *

* * * Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Act * * *

Sec. 6. 21 V.S.A. § 225 is amended to read:

§ 225. CITATIONS

(a)(1) If, upon inspection or investigation, the Commissioner or the Director, or the agent of either of them, finds that an employer has violated a requirement of the VOSHA Code, the Commissioner shall with reasonable promptness issue a citation to the employer and serve it on the employer by certified mail or in the same manner as a summons to the Superior Court. Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe with particularity the nature of the violation, including a reference to the provisions of the statute, standard, rule, or order alleged to have been violated, as well as the penalty, if any,

proposed to be assessed pursuant to section 210 of this title. In addition, the citation shall fix a reasonable time for the abatement of the violation.

(2) By rule, the Commissioner shall ~~prescribe~~ adopt procedures for issuance of a notice in lieu of a citation with respect to de minimus minimis violations ~~which~~ that have no direct or immediate relationship to safety or health, and for hearing interested parties before a civil penalty is assessed.

(b) Each citation issued under this section, or a copy or copies thereof of the citation, shall be prominently posted, as prescribed in rules promulgated adopted by the Commissioner, at or near each place a violation referred to in the citation occurred or existed.

* * *

Sec. 7. 21 V.S.A. § 226 is amended to read:

§ 226. ENFORCEMENT

(a)(1) After issuing a citation under section 225 of this title, the Commissioner shall notify the employer by certified mail or by service by an agent, of the penalty, if any, proposed to be assessed under section 210 of this title. The An employer shall have, within 20 days after personal service or receipt of the notice within which to a citation issued under section 225 of this title, notify the Commissioner that he or she wishes to appeal the citation or proposed assessment of penalty, and if no notice is filed by.

(2) If an employer does not notify the Commissioner as provided in this subsection and an employee does not file a notice under subsection (c) of this section, the citation and assessment penalty, as proposed, shall be deemed a final order of the Review Board and not subject to review by any court or agency.

(b)(1)(A) If the Commissioner on inspection or investigation finds that an employer has failed to correct a violation for which a citation has been issued within the period permitted for its correction (which period shall not begin to run until the entry of a final order by the Review Board in the case of any review proceedings under this section initiated by the employer in good faith and not solely for delay or avoidance of penalties, or on the day the citation and assessment becomes final under subsection (a) of this section), the Commissioner shall notify the employer by certified mail of such the failure and of the penalty proposed to be assessed under section 210 of this title by reason of such the failure.

(B) The period to correct a violation shall begin to run:

(i) when a final order is entered by the Review Board in relation to review proceedings under this section that are initiated by an employer in good faith and not solely for delay or avoidance of penalties; or

(ii) on the day the citation and penalty become final under subsection (a) of this section.

(2) The employer shall have 20 days after the receipt of the notice ~~within which~~ to notify the Commissioner that he or she wishes to appeal the Commissioner's ~~notification~~ citation or the proposed assessment of penalty. If within 20 days from the receipt of the notification issued by the Commissioner, the employer fails to notify the Commissioner that he or she intends to appeal ~~the notification or proposed assessment of penalty~~, the ~~notification~~ citation and assessment, as proposed, shall be deemed a final order of the Review Board and not subject to review by any court or agency.

(c) If an employer notifies the Commissioner that he or she intends to contest a citation issued under section 225 of this title ~~or notification issued under subsection (a) or (b) of this section~~, or if, within 20 days ~~of~~ after the issuance of a citation issued under section 225 of this title, any employee or representative of employees files a notice with the Commissioner alleging that the period of time fixed in the citation for the abatement of the violation is unreasonable, the Commissioner shall immediately advise the Review Board of ~~such~~ the notification and the Review Board shall afford an opportunity for a hearing. Unless ~~the~~ a notice is timely filed, the proposed penalty and, in appropriate cases, the ~~notification of the Commissioner~~ citation shall be deemed a final order of the Review Board not subject to review by any court or agency.

(d) After hearing an appeal, the Review Board shall ~~thereafter~~ issue an order based on findings of fact ~~affirming, modifying, or vacating~~ that affirms, modifies, or vacates the Commissioner's citation or proposed penalty, ~~or both, or directing provides other appropriate relief, and the.~~ The order shall become final 30 days after its issuance unless judicial review is timely taken under section 227 of this title. The rules of procedure ~~prescribed~~ adopted by the Review Board shall provide affected employees or their representatives with an opportunity to participate as parties in ~~hearings~~ a hearing under this subsection.

* * * Report on Debarment * * *

Sec. 8. DEBARMENT; OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2019, the Office of Legislative Council shall submit to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic

Development a written report on the use of debarment in relation to the laws against employee misclassification. In particular, the report shall:

(1) summarize Vermont's laws, rules, and procedures related to debarment, including the violations that can trigger a debarment proceeding;

(2) describe the use of Vermont's debarment procedures and why they have not been used more frequently to date;

(3) identify any obstacles that prevent or hinder the use of Vermont's debarment procedures;

(4) summarize the actions taken by the Agencies of Administration and of Transportation and the Departments of Labor, of Financial Regulation, and of Buildings and General Services to utilize debarment to ensure that the State is not contracting with employers that misclassify employees in violation of Vermont law;

(5) identify other states that utilize debarment as a means of enforcing the laws against employee misclassification and summarize the manner and frequency of debarment proceedings in those states;

(6) summarize specific characteristics of other states' laws, rules, and procedures related to debarment that have been identified as either enhancing or limiting their effectiveness in enforcing those states' laws against employee misclassification; and

(7) summarize any legislative, regulatory, or administrative changes that are identified by the Agency of Administration, Agency of Transportation, Department of Labor, Department of Financial Regulation, or Department of Buildings and General Services as necessary to make debarment a more effective tool for reducing the occurrence of and enforcing the laws against employee misclassification.

(b) In preparing the report, the Office of Legislative Council shall consult with the Agencies of Administration and of Transportation and the Departments of Labor, of Financial Regulation, and of Buildings and General Services.

(c) The Secretaries of Administration and of Transportation and the Commissioners of Labor, of Financial Regulation, and of Buildings and General Services shall, upon request, promptly provide the Office of Legislative Council with any pertinent information related to debarment procedures and the use of debarment as a means of enforcing Vermont's laws against employee misclassification.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 4, 5, 6, and 7 shall take effect on passage.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 28, 2018, pages 471-475)

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

H. 764.

An act relating to data brokers and consumer protection.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT

(a) The General Assembly finds the following:

(1) Providing consumers with more information about data brokers, their data collection practices, and the right to opt out.

(A) While many different types of business collect data about consumers, a “data broker” is in the business of aggregating and selling data about consumers with whom the business does not have a direct relationship.

(B) A data broker collects many hundreds or thousands of data points about consumers from multiple sources, including: Internet browsing history; online purchases; public records; location data; loyalty programs; and subscription information. The data broker then scrubs the data to ensure accuracy; analyzes the data to assess content; and packages the data for sale to a third party.

(C) Data brokers provide information that is critical to services offered in the modern economy, including: targeted marketing and sales; credit reporting; background checks; government information; risk mitigation and fraud detection; people search; decisions by banks, insurers, or others whether to provide services; ancestry research; and voter targeting and strategy by political campaigns.

(D) While data brokers offer many benefits, there are also risks associated with the widespread aggregation and sale of data about consumers, including risks related to consumers' ability to know and control information held and sold about them and risks arising from the unauthorized or harmful acquisition and use of consumer information.

(E) There are important differences between "data brokers" and businesses with whom consumers have a direct relationship.

(i) Consumers who have a direct relationship with traditional and e-commerce businesses may have some level of knowledge about and control over the collection of data by those business, including: the choice to use the business's products or services; the ability to review and consider data collection policies; the ability to opt out of certain data collection practices; the ability to identify and contact customer representatives; the ability to pursue contractual remedies through litigation; and the knowledge necessary to complain to law enforcement.

(ii) By contrast, consumers may not be aware that data brokers exist, who the companies are, or what information they collect, and may not be aware of available recourse.

(F) The State of Vermont has the legal authority and duty to exercise its traditional "Police Powers" to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare, which includes both the right to regulate businesses that operate in the State and engage in activities that affect Vermont consumers as well as the right to require disclosure of information to protect consumers from harm.

(G) To provide consumers with necessary information about data brokers, Vermont should adopt a narrowly tailored definition of "data broker" and require data brokers to register annually with the Secretary of State and provide information about their data collection activities, opt out policies, purchaser credentialing practices, and security breaches.

(2) Ensuring that data brokers have adequate security standards.

(A) News headlines in the past several years demonstrate that large and sophisticated businesses, governments, and other public and private institutions are constantly subject to cyberattacks, which have compromised sensitive personal information of literally billions of consumers worldwide.

(B) While neither government nor industry can prevent every security breach, the State of Vermont has the authority and the duty to enact legislation to protect its consumers where possible.

(C) One approach to protecting consumer data has been to require government agencies and certain regulated businesses to adopt an “information security program” that has “appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to ensure the security and confidentiality of records” and “to protect against any anticipated threats or hazards to their security or integrity which could result in substantial harm.” Federal Privacy Act; 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

(D) The requirement to adopt such an information security program currently applies to “financial institutions” subject to the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6801 et seq; to certain entities regulated by the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation pursuant to rules adopted by the Department; to persons who maintain or transmit health information regulated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; and to various types of businesses under laws in at least 13 other states.

(E) Vermont can better protect its consumers from data broker security breaches and related harm by requiring data brokers to adopt an information security program with appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect sensitive personal information.

(3) Prohibiting the acquisition of personal information through fraudulent means or with the intent to commit wrongful acts.

(A) One of the dangers of the broad availability of sensitive personal information is that it can be used with malicious intent to commit wrongful acts, such as stalking, harassment, fraud, discrimination, and identity theft.

(B) While various criminal and civil statutes prohibit these wrongful acts, there is currently no prohibition on acquiring data for the purpose of committing such acts.

(C) Vermont should create new causes of action to prohibit the acquisition of personal information through fraudulent means, or for the purpose of committing a wrongful act, to enable authorities and consumers to take action.

(4) Removing financial barriers to protect consumer credit information.

(A) In one of several major security breaches that have occurred in recent years, the names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses, driver’s license numbers, and credit card numbers of over 145 million Americans were exposed, including over 247,000 Vermonters.

(B) In response to concerns about data security, identity theft, and consumer protection, the Vermont Attorney General and the Department of Financial Regulation have outlined steps a consumer should take to protect his or her identity and credit information. One important step a consumer can take is to place a security freeze on his or her credit file with each of the national credit reporting agencies.

(C) Under State law, when a consumer places a security freeze, a credit reporting agency issues a unique personal identification number or password to the consumer. The consumer must provide the PIN or password, and his or her express consent, to allow a potential creditor to access his or her credit information.

(D) Except in cases of identity theft, current Vermont law allows a credit reporting agency to charge a fee of up to \$10.00 to place a security freeze, and up to \$5.00 to lift temporarily or remove a security freeze.

(E) Vermont should exercise its authority to prohibit these fees to eliminate any financial barrier to placing or removing a security freeze.

(b) Intent.

(1) Providing consumers with more information about data brokers, their data collection practices, and the right to opt out. It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide Vermonters with access to more information about the data brokers that collect consumer data and their collection practices by:

(A) adopting a narrowly tailored definition of “data broker” that:

(i) includes only those businesses that aggregate and sell the personal information of consumers with whom they do not have a direct relationship; and

(ii) excludes businesses that collect information from their own customers, employees, users, or donors, including: banks and other financial institutions; utilities; insurers; retailers and grocers; restaurants and hospitality businesses; social media websites and mobile “apps”; search websites; and businesses that provide services for consumer-facing businesses and maintain a direct relationship with those consumers, such as website, “app,” and e-commerce platforms; and

(B) requiring a data broker to register annually with the Secretary of State and make certain disclosures in order to provide consumers, policy makers, and regulators with relevant information.

(2) Ensuring that data brokers have adequate security standards. It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect against potential cyber threats by

requiring data brokers to adopt an information security program with appropriate technical, physical, and administrative safeguards.

(3) Prohibiting the acquisition of personal information with the intent to commit wrongful acts. It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect Vermonters from potential harm by creating new causes of action that prohibit the acquisition or use of personal information for the purpose of stalking, harassment, fraud, identity theft, or discrimination.

(4) Removing financial barriers to protect consumer credit information. It is the intent of the General Assembly to remove any financial barrier for Vermonters who wish to place a security freeze on their credit report by prohibiting credit reporting agencies from charging a fee to place or remove a freeze.

Sec. 2. 9 V.S.A. chapter 62 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 62. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 2430. DEFINITIONS

~~The following definitions shall apply throughout this chapter unless otherwise required~~ As used in this chapter:

(1) “Biometric record” means an individual’s psychological, biological, or behavioral characteristics that can be used, singly or in combination with each other or with other identifying data, to establish individual identity, including:

(A) imagery of the iris, retina, fingerprint, face, hand, palm, or vein patterns, and voice recordings, from which an identifier template, such as a face print or a minutiae template or voiceprint, can be extracted;

(B) keystroke patterns or rhythms;

(C) gait patterns or rhythms; and

(D) sleep health or exercise data that contain identifying information.

(2)(A) “Brokered personal information” means:

(i) one or more of the following computerized data elements about a consumer:

(I) name;

(II) address;

(III) a personal identifier, including a Social Security number, other government-issued identification number, or biometric record;

(IV) an indirect identifier, including date of birth, place of birth, or mother’s maiden name; or

(V) other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to the consumer that would allow a reasonable person to identify the consumer with reasonable certainty; and

(ii) the computerized data element or elements are:

(I) categorized by characteristic for dissemination to third parties; or

(II) combined with nonpublic information.

(B) “Brokered personal information” does not include publicly available information that is solely related to a consumer’s business or profession.

(3) “Business” means a commercial entity, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, association, limited liability company, or other group, however organized and whether or not organized to operate at a profit, including a financial institution organized, chartered, or holding a license or authorization certificate under the laws of this State, any other state, the United States, or any other country, or the parent, affiliate, or subsidiary of a financial institution, but ~~in no case shall it~~ does not include the State, a State agency, or any political subdivision of the State, or a vendor acting solely on behalf of, and at the direction of, the State.

(2)(4) “Consumer” means an individual residing in this State.

(5)(A) “Data broker” means:

(i) A business that:

(I) provides people search services; or

(II) collects and sells or licenses to one or more third parties the brokered personal information of a consumer with whom the business does not have a direct relationship.

(ii) “Data broker” includes each affiliated business that is under common ownership or control if one business collects brokered personal information and provides it to another to sell or license.

(B) “Data broker” does not include:

(i) a business that solely develops or maintains third-party e-commerce or application platforms; or

(ii) a business that solely provides publicly available information via real-time or near-real-time alert services for health or safety purposes.

(C) For purposes of subdivision (3)(A)(ii) of this subsection, examples of a direct relationship with a business include if the consumer is a past or present:

(i) customer, client, subscriber, or user of the business's goods or services;

(ii) employee, contractor, or agent of the business;

(iii) investor in the business; or

(iv) donor to the business.

(D) For purposes of subdivision (3)(A)(ii) of this subsection, a business does not sell or license brokered personal information within the meaning of the definition of "data broker" if the sale or license is merely incidental to one of its lines of business.

(6)(A) "Data broker security breach" means an unauthorized acquisition or a reasonable belief of an unauthorized acquisition of more than one element of brokered personal information maintained by a data broker when the brokered personal information is not encrypted, redacted, or protected by another method that renders the information unreadable or unusable by an unauthorized person.

(B) "Data broker security breach" does not include good faith but unauthorized acquisition of brokered personal information by an employee or agent of the data broker for a legitimate purpose of the data broker, provided that the brokered personal information is not used for a purpose unrelated to the data broker's business or subject to further unauthorized disclosure.

(C) In determining whether brokered personal information has been acquired or is reasonably believed to have been acquired by a person without valid authorization, a data broker may consider the following factors, among others:

(i) indications that the brokered personal information is in the physical possession and control of a person without valid authorization, such as a lost or stolen computer or other device containing brokered personal information;

(ii) indications that the brokered personal information has been downloaded or copied;

(iii) indications that the brokered personal information was used by an unauthorized person, such as fraudulent accounts opened or instances of identity theft reported; or

(iv) that the brokered personal information has been made public.

~~(3)(7)~~ “Data collector” ~~may include the State, State agencies, political subdivisions of the State, public and private universities, privately and publicly held corporations, limited liability companies, financial institutions, retail operators, and any other entity that,~~ means a person who, for any purpose, whether by automated collection or otherwise, handles, collects, disseminates, or otherwise deals with nonpublic personal information personally identifiable information, and includes the State, State agencies, political subdivisions of the State, public and private universities, privately and publicly held corporations, limited liability companies, financial institutions, and retail operators.

~~(4)(8)~~ “Encryption” means use of an algorithmic process to transform data into a form in which the data is rendered unreadable or unusable without use of a confidential process or key.

~~(9)~~ “License” means a grant of access to, or distribution of, data by one person to another in exchange for consideration. A use of data for the sole benefit of the data provider, where the data provider maintains control over the use of the data, is not a license.

~~(10)(A)~~ “People search services” means an Internet-based service in which an individual can pay a fee to search for a specific consumer, and which provides information about the consumer such as the consumer’s address, age, maiden name, alias, name or addresses of relatives, financial records, criminal records, background reports, or property details, where the consumer whose data is provided does not have a direct relationship with the business.

~~(B)~~ “People search services” does not include a service that solely provides publicly available information related to a consumer’s business or profession.

~~(5)(11)(A)~~ “Personally identifiable information” means an individual’s a consumer’s first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following digital data elements, when either the name or the data elements are not encrypted or redacted or protected by another method that renders them unreadable or unusable by unauthorized persons:

- (i) Social Security number;
- (ii) motor vehicle operator’s license number or nondriver identification card number;
- (iii) financial account number or credit or debit card number, if circumstances exist in which the number could be used without additional identifying information, access codes, or passwords;
- (iv) account passwords or personal identification numbers or other access codes for a financial account.

(B) “Personally identifiable information” does not mean publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, State, or local government records.

~~(6)~~(12) “Records Record” means any material on which written, drawn, spoken, visual, or electromagnetic information is recorded or preserved, regardless of physical form or characteristics.

~~(7)~~(13) “Redaction” means the rendering of data so that ~~it is~~ the data are unreadable or ~~is~~ are truncated so that no more than the last four digits of the identification number are accessible as part of the data.

~~(8)~~(14)(A) “Security breach” means unauthorized acquisition of, ~~electronic data~~ or a reasonable belief of an unauthorized acquisition of, ~~electronic data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of a consumer’s personally identifiable information maintained by the~~ a data collector.

(B) “Security breach” does not include good faith but unauthorized acquisition of personally identifiable information by an employee or agent of the data collector for a legitimate purpose of the data collector, provided that the personally identifiable information is not used for a purpose unrelated to the data collector’s business or subject to further unauthorized disclosure.

(C) In determining whether personally identifiable information has been acquired or is reasonably believed to have been acquired by a person without valid authorization, a data collector may consider the following factors, among others:

(i) indications that the information is in the physical possession and control of a person without valid authorization, such as a lost or stolen computer or other device containing information;

(ii) indications that the information has been downloaded or copied;

(iii) indications that the information was used by an unauthorized person, such as fraudulent accounts opened or instances of identity theft reported; or

(iv) that the information has been made public.

§ 2433. ACQUISITION OF BROKERED PERSONAL INFORMATION; PROHIBITIONS

(a) Prohibited acquisition and use.

(1) A person shall not acquire brokered personal information through fraudulent means.

(2) A person shall not acquire or use brokered personal information for the purpose of:

(A) stalking or harassing another person;

(B) committing a fraud, including identity theft, financial fraud, or e-mail fraud; or

(C) engaging in unlawful discrimination, including employment discrimination and housing discrimination.

(b) For purposes of this section, brokered personal information includes information acquired from people search services.

(c) Enforcement.

(1) A person who violates a provision of this section commits an unfair and deceptive act in commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

(2) The Attorney General has the same authority to adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section and to conduct civil investigations, enter into assurances of discontinuance, bring civil actions, and take other enforcement actions as provided under chapter 63, subchapter 1 of this title.

* * *

Subchapter 5. Data Brokers

§ 2446. ANNUAL REGISTRATION

(a) Annually, on or before January 31 following a year in which a person meets the definition of data broker as provided in section 2430 of this title, a data broker shall:

(1) register with the Secretary of State;

(2) pay a registration fee of \$100.00; and

(3) provide the following information:

(A) the name and primary physical, e-mail, and Internet addresses of the data broker;

(B) the nature and type of sources used to compile data;

(C) if the data broker permits a consumer to opt out of the data broker's collection of brokered personal information, opt out of its databases, or opt out of certain sales of data:

(i) the method for requesting an opt out;

(ii) if the opt out applies to only certain activities or sales, which ones; and

(iii) whether the data broker permits a consumer to authorize a third party to perform the opt out on the consumer's behalf;

(D) a statement specifying the data collection, databases, or sales activities from which a consumer may not opt out;

(E) a statement whether the data broker implements a purchaser credentialing process;

(F) the number of data broker security breaches that the data broker has experienced during the prior year, and if known, the total number of consumers affected by the breaches;

(G) where the data broker has actual knowledge that it possesses the brokered personal information of minors, a separate statement detailing the data collection practices, databases, sales activities, and opt out policies that are applicable to the brokered personal information of minors; and

(H) any additional information or explanation the data broker chooses to provide concerning its data collection practices.

(b) A data broker that fails to register pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is liable to the State for:

(1) a civil penalty of \$50.00 for each day, not to exceed a total of \$10,000.00 for each year, it fails to register pursuant to this section;

(2) an amount equal to the fees due under this section during the period it failed to register pursuant to this section; and

(3) other penalties imposed by law.

(c) The Attorney General may maintain an action in the Civil Division of the Superior Court to collect the penalties imposed in this section and to seek appropriate injunctive relief.

§ 2447. DATA BROKER DUTY TO PROTECT INFORMATION;
STANDARDS; TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) Duty to protect personally identifiable information.

(1) A data broker shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive information security program that is written in one or more readily accessible parts and contains administrative, technical, and physical safeguards that are appropriate to:

(A) the size, scope, and type of business of the data broker obligated to safeguard the personally identifiable information under such comprehensive information security program;

(B) the amount of resources available to the data broker;

(C) the amount of stored data; and

(D) the need for security and confidentiality of personally identifiable information.

(2) A data broker subject to this subsection shall adopt safeguards in the comprehensive security program that are consistent with the safeguards for protection of personally identifiable information and information of a similar character set forth in other State rules or federal regulations applicable to the data broker.

(b) Information security program; minimum features. A comprehensive information security program shall at minimum have the following features:

(1) designation of one or more employees to maintain the program;

(2) identification and assessment of reasonably foreseeable internal and external risks to the security, confidentiality, and integrity of any electronic, paper, or other records containing personally identifiable information, and a process for evaluating and improving, where necessary, the effectiveness of the current safeguards for limiting such risks, including:

(A) ongoing employee training, including training for temporary and contract employees;

(B) employee compliance with policies and procedures; and

(C) means for detecting and preventing security system failures;

(3) security policies for employees relating to the storage, access, and transportation of records containing personally identifiable information outside business premises;

(4) disciplinary measures for violations of the comprehensive information security program rules;

(5) measures that prevent terminated employees from accessing records containing personally identifiable information;

(6) supervision of service providers, by:

(A) taking reasonable steps to select and retain third-party service providers that are capable of maintaining appropriate security measures to protect personally identifiable information consistent with applicable law; and

(B) requiring third-party service providers by contract to implement and maintain appropriate security measures for personally identifiable information;

(7) reasonable restrictions upon physical access to records containing personally identifiable information and storage of the records and data in locked facilities, storage areas, or containers;

(8)(A) regular monitoring to ensure that the comprehensive information security program is operating in a manner reasonably calculated to prevent unauthorized access to or unauthorized use of personally identifiable information; and

(B) upgrading information safeguards as necessary to limit risks;

(9) regular review of the scope of the security measures:

(A) at least annually; or

(B) whenever there is a material change in business practices that may reasonably implicate the security or integrity of records containing personally identifiable information; and

(10)(A) documentation of responsive actions taken in connection with any incident involving a breach of security; and

(B) mandatory post-incident review of events and actions taken, if any, to make changes in business practices relating to protection of personally identifiable information.

(c) Information security program; computer system security requirements. A comprehensive information security program required by this section shall at minimum, and to the extent technically feasible, have the following elements:

(1) secure user authentication protocols, as follows:

(A) an authentication protocol that has the following features:

(i) control of user IDs and other identifiers;

(ii) a reasonably secure method of assigning and selecting passwords or use of unique identifier technologies, such as biometrics or token devices;

(iii) control of data security passwords to ensure that such passwords are kept in a location and format that do not compromise the security of the data they protect;

(iv) restricting access to only active users and active user accounts; and

(v) blocking access to user identification after multiple unsuccessful attempts to gain access; or

(B) an authentication protocol that provides a higher level of security than the features specified in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (c)(1).

(2) secure access control measures that:

(A) restrict access to records and files containing personally identifiable information to those who need such information to perform their job duties; and

(B) assign to each person with computer access unique identifications plus passwords, which are not vendor-supplied default passwords, that are reasonably designed to maintain the integrity of the security of the access controls or a protocol that provides a higher degree of security;

(3) encryption of all transmitted records and files containing personally identifiable information that will travel across public networks and encryption of all data containing personally identifiable information to be transmitted wirelessly or a protocol that provides a higher degree of security;

(4) reasonable monitoring of systems for unauthorized use of or access to personally identifiable information;

(5) encryption of all personally identifiable information stored on laptops or other portable devices or a protocol that provides a higher degree of security;

(6) for files containing personally identifiable information on a system that is connected to the Internet, reasonably up-to-date firewall protection and operating system security patches that are reasonably designed to maintain the integrity of the personally identifiable information or a protocol that provides a higher degree of security;

(7) reasonably up-to-date versions of system security agent software that must include malware protection and reasonably up-to-date patches and virus definitions, or a version of such software that can still be supported with up-to-date patches and virus definitions and is set to receive the most current security updates on a regular basis or a protocol that provides a higher degree of security; and

(8) education and training of employees on the proper use of the computer security system and the importance of personally identifiable information security.

(d) Enforcement.

(1) A person who violates a provision of this section commits an unfair and deceptive act in commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

(2) The Attorney General has the same authority to adopt rules to implement the provisions of this chapter and to conduct civil investigations, enter into assurances of discontinuance, and bring civil actions as provided under chapter 63, subchapter 1 of this title.

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. § 2480b is amended to read:

§ 2480b. DISCLOSURES TO CONSUMERS

(a) A credit reporting agency shall, upon request and proper identification of any consumer, clearly and accurately disclose to the consumer all information available to users at the time of the request pertaining to the consumer, including:

(1) any credit score or predictor relating to the consumer, in a form and manner that complies with such comments or guidelines as may be issued by the Federal Trade Commission;

(2) the names of users requesting information pertaining to the consumer during the prior 12-month period and the date of each request; and

(3) a clear and concise explanation of the information.

(b) As frequently as new telephone directories are published, the credit reporting agency shall cause to be listed its name and number in each telephone directory published to serve communities of this State. In accordance with rules adopted by the Attorney General, the credit reporting agency shall make provision for consumers to request by telephone the information required to be disclosed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section at no cost to the consumer.

(c) Any time a credit reporting agency is required to make a written disclosure to consumers pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681g, it shall disclose, in at least 12 point type, and in bold type as indicated, the following notice:

“NOTICE TO VERMONT CONSUMERS

(1) Under Vermont law, you are allowed to receive one free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each credit reporting agency. If you would like to obtain your free credit report from [INSERT NAME OF COMPANY], you should contact us by [[writing to the following address: [INSERT ADDRESS FOR OBTAINING FREE CREDIT REPORT]] or [calling the following number: [INSERT TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR OBTAINING FREE CREDIT REPORT]], or both].

(2) Under Vermont law, no one may access your credit report without your permission except under the following limited circumstances:

(A) in response to a court order;

(B) for direct mail offers of credit;

(C) if you have given ongoing permission and you have an existing relationship with the person requesting a copy of your credit report;

(D) where the request for a credit report is related to an education loan made, guaranteed, or serviced by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation;

(E) where the request for a credit report is by the Office of Child Support Services when investigating a child support case;

(F) where the request for a credit report is related to a credit transaction entered into prior to January 1, 1993; ~~and~~ or

(G) where the request for a credit report is by the Vermont State Tax Department of Taxes and is used for the purpose of collecting or investigating delinquent taxes.

(3) If you believe a law regulating consumer credit reporting has been violated, you may file a complaint with the Vermont Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Program, 104 Morrill Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont 05405.

Vermont Consumers Have the Right to Obtain a Security Freeze

You have a right to place a "security freeze" on your credit report pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 2480h at no charge ~~if you are a victim of identity theft. All other Vermont consumers will pay a fee to the credit reporting agency of up to \$10.00 to place the freeze on their credit report.~~ The security freeze will prohibit a credit reporting agency from releasing any information in your credit report without your express authorization. A security freeze must be requested in writing by certified mail.

The security freeze is designed to help prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a security freeze to take control over who gains access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding new loans, credit, mortgage, insurance, government services or payments, rental housing, employment, investment, license, cellular phone, utilities, digital signature, ~~internet~~ Internet credit card transaction, or other services, including an extension of credit at point of sale.

When you place a security freeze on your credit report, within ten business days you will be provided a personal identification number ~~or~~, password, or other equally or more secure method of authentication to use if you choose to remove the freeze on your credit report or authorize the release of your credit

report for a specific party, parties, or period of time after the freeze is in place. To provide that authorization, you must contact the credit reporting agency and provide all of the following:

(1) The unique personal identification number ~~or~~, password, or other method of authentication provided by the credit reporting agency.

(2) Proper identification to verify your identity.

(3) The proper information regarding the third party or parties who are to receive the credit report or the period of time for which the report shall be available to users of the credit report.

~~A credit reporting agency may not charge a fee of up to \$5.00 to a consumer who is not a victim of identity theft to remove the freeze on your credit report or authorize the release of your credit report for a specific party, parties, or period of time after the freeze is in place. For a victim of identity theft, there is no charge when the victim submits a copy of a police report, investigative report, or complaint filed with a law enforcement agency about unlawful use of the victim's personal information by another person.~~

A credit reporting agency that receives a request from a consumer to lift temporarily a freeze on a credit report shall comply with the request no later than three business days after receiving the request.

A security freeze will not apply to “preauthorized approvals of credit.” If you want to stop receiving preauthorized approvals of credit, you should call [INSERT PHONE NUMBERS] [ALSO INSERT ALL OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PRESCREENED OFFER ~~OPT-OUT~~ OPT-OUT.]

A security freeze does not apply to a person or entity, or its affiliates, or collection agencies acting on behalf of the person or entity with which you have an existing account that requests information in your credit report for the purposes of reviewing or collecting the account, provided you have previously given your consent to this use of your credit reports. Reviewing the account includes activities related to account maintenance, monitoring, credit line increases, and account upgrades and enhancements.

You have a right to bring a civil action against someone who violates your rights under the credit reporting laws. The action can be brought against a credit reporting agency or a user of your credit report.”

(d) The information required to be disclosed by this section shall be disclosed in writing. The information required to be disclosed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be disclosed on one side of a separate document, with text no smaller than that prescribed by the Federal Trade Commission for the notice required under 15 U.S.C. ~~§ 1681q~~ § 1681g. The information required to be disclosed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section

may accurately reflect changes in numerical items that change over time (such as the ~~phone~~ telephone number or address of Vermont State agencies), and remain in compliance.

(e) The Attorney General may revise this required notice by rule as appropriate from time to time so long as no new substantive rights are created therein.

Sec. 4. 9 V.S.A. § 2480h is amended to read:

§ 2480h. SECURITY FREEZE BY CREDIT REPORTING AGENCY; TIME IN EFFECT

(a)(1) ~~Any~~ A Vermont consumer may place a security freeze on his or her credit report. A credit reporting agency shall not charge a fee to ~~victims of identity theft but may charge a fee of up to \$10.00 to all other~~ Vermont consumers for placing ~~and \$5.00 for~~ or removing, removing for a specific party or parties, or removing for a specific period of time after the freeze is in place, a security freeze on a credit report.

(2) A consumer ~~who has been the victim of identity theft~~ may place a security freeze on his or her credit report by making a request in writing by certified mail to a credit reporting agency ~~with a valid copy of a police report, investigative report, or complaint the consumer has filed with a law enforcement agency about unlawful use of his or her personal information by another person. All other Vermont consumers may place a security freeze on his or her credit report by making a request in writing by certified mail to a credit reporting agency.~~

(3) A security freeze shall prohibit, subject to the exceptions in subsection (1) of this section, the credit reporting agency from releasing the consumer's credit report or any information from it without the express authorization of the consumer. ~~When a security freeze is in place, information from a consumer's credit report shall not be released to a third party without prior express authorization from the consumer.~~

(4) This subsection does not prevent a credit reporting agency from advising a third party that a security freeze is in effect with respect to the consumer's credit report.

(b) A credit reporting agency shall place a security freeze on a consumer's credit report ~~no~~ not later than five business days after receiving a written request from the consumer.

(c) The credit reporting agency shall send a written confirmation of the security freeze to the consumer within 10 business days and shall provide the consumer with a unique personal identification number or password, other than the customer's Social Security number, or another method of

authentication that is equally or more secure than a PIN or password, to be used by the consumer when providing authorization for the release of his or her credit for a specific party, parties, or period of time.

(d) If the consumer wishes to allow his or her credit report to be accessed for a specific party, parties, or period of time while a freeze is in place, he or she shall contact the credit reporting agency, request that the freeze be temporarily lifted, and provide the following:

(1) ~~Proper~~ proper identification;

(2) ~~The~~ the unique personal identification number ~~or~~, password, or other method of authentication provided by the credit reporting agency pursuant to subsection (c) of this section; and

(3) ~~The~~ the proper information regarding the third party, parties, or time period for which the report shall be available to users of the credit report.

(e) A credit reporting agency may develop procedures involving the use of telephone, fax, the Internet, or other electronic media to receive and process a request from a consumer to lift temporarily ~~lift~~ a freeze on a credit report pursuant to subsection (d) of this section in an expedited manner.

(f) A credit reporting agency that receives a request from a consumer to lift temporarily a freeze on a credit report pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall comply with the request ~~no~~ not later than three business days after receiving the request.

(g) A credit reporting agency shall remove or lift temporarily ~~lift~~ a freeze placed on a consumer's credit report only in the following cases:

(1) Upon consumer request, pursuant to subsection (d) or (j) of this section.

(2) If the consumer's credit report was frozen due to a material misrepresentation of fact by the consumer. If a credit reporting agency intends to remove a freeze upon a consumer's credit report pursuant to this subdivision, the credit reporting agency shall notify the consumer in writing prior to removing the freeze on the consumer's credit report.

(h) If a third party requests access to a credit report on which a security freeze is in effect and this request is in connection with an application for credit or any other use and the consumer does not allow his or her credit report to be accessed for that specific party or period of time, the third party may treat the application as incomplete.

(i) If a consumer requests a security freeze pursuant to this section, the credit reporting agency shall disclose to the consumer the process of placing and lifting temporarily ~~lifting~~ a security freeze and the process for allowing

access to information from the consumer's credit report for a specific party, parties, or period of time while the security freeze is in place.

(j) A security freeze shall remain in place until the consumer requests that the security freeze be removed. A credit reporting agency shall remove a security freeze within three business days of receiving a request for removal from the consumer who provides both of the following:

(1) ~~Proper~~ proper identification; and

(2) ~~The~~ the unique personal identification number, or password, or other method of authentication provided by the credit reporting agency pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(k) A credit reporting agency shall require proper identification of the person making a request to place or remove a security freeze.

(l) The provisions of this section, including the security freeze, do not apply to the use of a consumer report by the following:

(1) A person, or the person's subsidiary, affiliate, agent, or assignee with which the consumer has or, prior to assignment, had an account, contract, or debtor-creditor relationship for the purposes of reviewing the account or collecting the financial obligation owing for the account, contract, or debt, or extending credit to a consumer with a prior or existing account, contract, or debtor-creditor relationship, subject to the requirements of section 2480e of this title. For purposes of this subdivision, "reviewing the account" includes activities related to account maintenance, monitoring, credit line increases, and account upgrades and enhancements.

(2) A subsidiary, affiliate, agent, assignee, or prospective assignee of a person to whom access has been granted under subsection (d) of this section for purposes of facilitating the extension of credit or other permissible use.

(3) Any person acting pursuant to a court order, warrant, or subpoena.

(4) The Office of Child Support when investigating a child support case pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. et seq.) and 33 V.S.A. § 4102.

(5) The Economic Services Division of the Department for Children and Families or the Department of Vermont Health Access or its agents or assignee acting to investigate welfare or Medicaid fraud.

(6) The Department of Taxes, municipal taxing authorities, or the Department of Motor Vehicles, or any of their agents or assignees, acting to investigate or collect delinquent taxes or assessments, including interest and penalties, unpaid court orders, or acting to fulfill any of their other statutory or charter responsibilities.

(7) A person's use of credit information for the purposes of prescreening as provided by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

(8) Any person for the sole purpose of providing a credit file monitoring subscription service to which the consumer has subscribed.

(9) A credit reporting agency for the sole purpose of providing a consumer with a copy of his or her credit report upon the consumer's request.

(10) Any property and casualty insurance company for use in setting or adjusting a rate or underwriting for property and casualty insurance purposes.

Sec. 5. REPORTS

(a) On or before March 1, 2019, the Attorney General and Secretary of State shall submit a preliminary report concerning the implementation of this act to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(b) On or before January 15, 2020, the Attorney General and Secretary of State shall update its preliminary report and provide additional information concerning the implementation of this act to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(c) On or before January 15, 2019, the Attorney General shall:

(1) review and consider additional legislative and regulatory approaches to protecting the data security and privacy of Vermont consumers, including:

(A) whether to create or designate a Chief Privacy Officer and if so, the appropriate duties for, and the resources necessary to support, that position; and

(B) whether to expand the scope of regulation to businesses with direct relationships to consumers; and

(2) report its findings and recommendations to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Energy and Technology and to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Sec. 6. ONE-STOP FREEZE NOTIFICATION

(a) The Attorney General, in consultation with industry stakeholders, shall consider one or more methods to ease the burden on consumers when placing or lifting a credit security freeze, including the right to place a freeze with a single nationwide credit reporting agency and require that agency to initiate a freeze with other agencies.

(b) On or before January 15, 2019, the Attorney General shall report his or her findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Secs. 1 (findings and intent), 3–4 (eliminating fees for placing or removing a credit freeze), and 5–6 (reports) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 2 (data brokers) shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

(No House amendments)

Reported favorably by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

H. 777.

An act relating to the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Rodgers for the Committee on Institutions.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, Declaration of Policy, in the last sentence, after “promote” by striking out “public-private partnerships and expenditures by private entities for”

Second: In Sec.5, 24 V.S.A. § 4755(a), by striking out subdivision (C) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(C) without voter approval for a natural resources project under the sponsorship program, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4752, provided that:

(i) the amount of the debt incurred does not exceed an amount to be forgiven or cancelled upon the completion of the project; and

(ii) the municipality obtains voter approval for the paired water pollution abatement and control facilities project under the sponsorship program, pursuant to the requirements set forth in 24 V.S.A. chapter 53.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 20, 2018, pages 722-733)

Reported favorably by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Institutions.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

Reported favorably by Senator Nitka for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Institutions.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

H. 907.

An act relating to improving rental housing safety.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 2477 is added to read:

§ 2477. RENTAL HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

(a)(1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall create the Rental Housing Advisory Board consisting of 11 members, each of whom shall be a resident of Vermont and shall be appointed by the Commissioner of the Department, as follows:

(A) three members representing landlords, one of whom is a for-profit landlord and one of whom represents a nonprofit housing provider;

(B) three members representing tenants;

(C) three members representing municipalities; and

(D) two members of the public.

(2) A member shall serve a term of three years.

(3) The Board shall annually elect a chair from among its members.

(4) A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

(5) The Board shall take action by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

(b) The Board shall be staffed by the Department, which, along with the Departments of Health and of Public Safety, shall provide support to the Board as required.

(c) The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) to act as an advisory group to the Governor, General Assembly, and appropriate State agencies on issues related to rental housing statutes, policies, and regulations;

(2) to report regularly to the Vermont Housing Council on its deliberations and recommendations;

(3) to work with appropriate State agencies on developing adequate data on the location and condition of Vermont's rental housing stock;

(4) to provide guidance to the State on the implementation of programs, policies, and regulations better to support decent, safe, and sanitary housing, including recommendations for incentives and programs to assist landlords with building repairs;

(5) to provide information to community partners, municipalities, landlords, and tenants, including educational materials on applicable rental housing statutes, regulations, and ordinances; and

(6) in preparation for a natural disaster, to collect information regarding available resources, disaster-related information, and community needs, and, in the event of a natural disaster, work with government authorities in charge of disaster response and communication.

Sec. 2. TASKS OF RENTAL HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

(a) On or before January 15, 2019, the Rental Housing Advisory Board created in 3 V.S.A. § 2477 shall submit to the General Assembly potential legislation or policy changes to better support decent, safe, and sanitary rental housing that address the following issues:

(1) recommendations for one State agency to be responsible for overseeing all aspects of rental housing code enforcement; and

(2) whether to retain or modify the current system of rental housing code enforcement, including current statutory provisions for issuance of health orders for violations of a rental housing health code.

(b) In formulating the potential legislation or policy changes identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall consider the following proposals:

(1) professionalize or otherwise improve the current system of town health officers;

(2) regionalize rental housing code enforcement;

(3) create a public-private system of rental housing code inspections and enforcement;

(4) allow self-certification by property owners of compliance with applicable rental housing codes;

(5) require inspection reports to utilize a hazard index rating system similar to that used by the Department of Public Safety's Division of Fire Safety to standardize timelines for repair and amounts of fines;

(6) require landlords and tenants, as applicable, to submit an action plan for correcting violations within the time limit for correction;

(7) enable a landlord or tenant to appeal an inspection report to address habitability issues;

(8) make inspection reports available to the public online; and

(9) enable a local health officer to file a report of violation in the land records as a lien on the property if a landlord does not comply with the inspection report.

(c) Not later than September 1, 2018 and November 15, 2018, the Board shall report on its progress on formulating the potential legislation or policy changes identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs.

Sec. 3. IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS; REPORT

(a) The Department of Health, shall provide the Rental Housing Advisory Board with information on the current system for local health officers and the enforcement of Vermont rental housing and habitability statutes and regulations, as well as any recommendation it has for how the system could be improved or substantially modified, including recommendations for regional approaches to housing code enforcement.

(b) The Department shall develop a system for keeping data about the type and number of complaints concerning violations of the rental safety codes.

(c) The Department shall assign a person to be in charge of providing assistance to local health officers in their duties and make the name and contact information of that person available on request.

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 602a is amended to read:

§ 602a. DUTIES OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS

(a) A local health officer, within his or her jurisdiction, shall:

(1) upon request of a landlord or tenant, or upon receipt of information regarding a condition that may be a public health hazard, conduct an investigation;

* * *

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 603 is added to read:

§ 603. RENTAL HOUSING SAFETY; INSPECTION REPORTS

(a)(1) When conducting an investigation of rental housing, a local health officer shall issue a written inspection report on the rental property using the protocols for implementing the Rental Housing Health Code of the Department or the municipality, in the case of a municipality that has established a code enforcement office.

(2)(A) A written inspection report shall:

(i) contain findings of fact that serve as the basis of one or more violations;

(ii) specify the requirements and timelines necessary to correct a violation;

(iii) provide notice that the landlord is prohibited from renting the affected unit to a new tenant until the violation is corrected; and

(iv) provide notice in plain language that, consistent with the access provisions in 9 V.S.A. § 4660, the tenant must allow the landlord and agents of the landlord access to the rental unit to make repairs as ordered by the health officer.

(B) For purposes of subdivision (2)(A)(iv) of this subsection, the notice concerning access may read: "Notice - The landlord of this property may enter the unit either with the tenant's consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, or between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on not less than 48 hours' notice. If the health officer has identified an imminent danger, the landlord shall have access immediately."

(3) A local health officer shall provide a copy of the inspection report to the landlord and any tenants affected by a violation by delivering the report electronically, in person, by first class mail, or by leaving a copy at each unit affected by the deficiency.

(4) If an entire property is affected by a violation, the local health officer shall post a copy of the inspection report in a common area of the property and include a prominent notice that the report shall not be removed until authorized by the local health officer.

(b) A local health officer may impose a fine of not more than \$100.00 per day for each violation that is not corrected by the date provided in the written inspection report, or when a unit is re-rented to a new tenant prior to the correction of a violation.

(c) If a local health officer fails to conduct an investigation pursuant to section 602a of this title or fails to issue an inspection report pursuant to this section, a landlord or tenant may request that the Department, at its discretion, conduct an investigation or contact the local board of health to take action.

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 6069 is amended to read:

§ 6069. LANDLORD CERTIFICATE

* * *

(f) Annually, on or before October 31, the Department shall prepare and make available to a member of the public upon request a database in the form of a sortable spreadsheet that contains the following information for each rental unit for which the Department received a certificate pursuant to this section:

- (1) name of owner or landlord;
- (2) mailing address of landlord;
- (3) location of rental unit;
- (4) type of rental unit;
- (5) number of units in building; and
- (6) School Property Account Number.

Sec. 7. ACCELERATED WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM; HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM; STATE TREASURER; FUNDING

(a) The General Assembly finds that, in addition to the weatherization efforts provided under the Home Weatherization Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 25, an increased pace of weatherization would result in both environmental and economic benefits to the State. Accelerated weatherization efforts will:

- (1) decrease the emission of greenhouse gases; and
- (2) increase job opportunities in the field of weatherization.

(b) The General Assembly further finds that the State of Vermont has one of the oldest housing stocks in the United States, with many owned and rented homes in need of basic health and safety repairs and having high levels of lead paint and mold. Increased housing improvement initiatives will:

(1) enable Vermonters to live in safer, healthier housing; and

(2) reduce health care costs by reducing the incidence of respiratory illnesses, allergies, and other health problems.

(c) In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the State Treasurer is authorized to invest up to \$5,000,000.00 of funds from the credit facility established in 10 V.S.A. § 10 for an accelerated weatherization and housing improvement program, provided that:

(1) for owner-occupied homes, the funds shall be used to support weatherization efforts and housing improvement efforts for homeowners with a family income that is not more than 120 percent of the area or statewide median family income, whichever is higher, as reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the most recent year for which data are available; and

(2) for multi-family rental homes, the funds shall be used in conjunction with other State programs, and that not less than 50 percent of the tenant households residing in properties to be rehabilitated shall have an annual household income that is not more than 80 percent of the area or statewide median family income, whichever is higher, as reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the most recent year for which data are available.

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 1 (advisory board) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 6 (rental housing database) shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(c) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments)

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

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following amendments thereto:

By striking out Sec. 7, accelerated weatherization program; housing

improvement program; State Treasurer; funding, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 7. ACCELERATED WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM; HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM; STATE TREASURER; FUNDING

(a) The General Assembly finds that, in addition to the weatherization efforts provided under the Home Weatherization Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 25, an increased pace of weatherization and housing improvements would result in both environmental and economic benefits to the State. Accelerated weatherization efforts and housing improvements will:

- (1) decrease the emission of greenhouse gases;
- (2) increase job opportunities in the field of weatherization;
- (3) enable Vermonters to live in safer, healthier housing; and
- (4) reduce health care costs by reducing the incidence of respiratory illnesses, allergies, and other health problems.

(c) In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the State Treasurer is authorized to invest up to \$5,000,000.00 of funds from the credit facility established in 10 V.S.A. § 10 for an accelerated weatherization and housing improvement program, provided that:

(1) for owner-occupied homes, the funds shall be used to support weatherization efforts and housing improvement efforts for homeowners with a family income that is not more than 120 percent of the area or statewide median family income, whichever is higher, as reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the most recent year for which data are available;

(2) for multi-family rental homes, the funds shall be used in conjunction with other State programs, and that not less than 50 percent of the tenant households residing in properties to be rehabilitated shall have an annual household income that is not more than 80 percent of the area or statewide median family income, whichever is higher, as reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the most recent year for which data are available; and

(3) weatherization efforts are included in the improvements to any housing unit funded from the credit facility.

(Committee vote: 4-0-3)

H. 917.

An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to transportation-related law.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Transportation Program Adopted as Amended; Definitions * * *

Sec. 1. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADOPTED; DEFINITIONS

(a) The Agency of Transportation's proposed fiscal year 2019 Transportation Program appended to the Agency of Transportation's proposed fiscal year 2019 budget, as amended by this act, is adopted to the extent federal, State, and local funds are available.

(b) As used in this act, unless otherwise indicated:

(1) "Agency" means the Agency of Transportation.

(2) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation.

(3) The table heading "As Proposed" means the Transportation Program referenced in subsection (a) of this section; the table heading "As Amended" means the amendments as made by this act; the table heading "Change" means the difference obtained by subtracting the "As Proposed" figure from the "As Amended" figure; and the terms "change" or "changes" in the text refer to the project- and program-specific amendments, the aggregate sum of which equals the net "Change" in the applicable table heading.

(4) "TIB funds" means monies deposited in the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 11f.

* * * Federal Infrastructure Funding * * *

Sec. 2. FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

(a) Subsection (b) of this section shall expire on February 1, 2019.

(b)(1) If a federal infrastructure bill or other federal legislation that provides for infrastructure funding is enacted that provides Vermont with additional federal funding for transportation-related projects, to the extent that federal monies allocated to the State of Vermont are subject to a requirement that the monies be obligated or under contract by the State within a specified time period, the Secretary is authorized to exceed spending authority in the fiscal year 2018 and 2019 Transportation Programs and to obligate and expend the federal monies:

(A) on eligible projects in the fiscal year 2018 or 2019 Transportation Program; and

(B) on additional town highway projects or activities that meet federal eligibility and readiness criteria.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the Secretary to obligate or expend State Transportation or TIB funds above amounts authorized in the fiscal year 2018 or 2019 Transportation Program.

(c) The Agency shall promptly report the obligation or expenditure of monies under the authority of this section to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and to the Joint Fiscal Office while the General Assembly is in session, and to the Joint Fiscal Office, the Joint Fiscal Committee, and the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee when the General Assembly is not in session.

* * * Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grant * * *

Sec. 3. INFRASTRUCTURE FOR REBUILDING AMERICA GRANT

(a)(1) According to the Agency, in 2018, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) may solicit applications for grants under the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program.

(2) If USDOT does solicit INFRA grant applications in 2018, the Agency may submit an application for an INFRA grant for bridge and culvert projects on Interstate 89 with a total cost of up to \$105,000,000.00, which amount includes a State match of up to \$21,000,000.00. If it submits a grant application, the Agency shall identify Transportation Infrastructure Bonds as a possible source of State matching dollars and, promptly upon its submission to the USDOT, the Agency shall send an electronic copy of the grant application to the Joint Fiscal Office, which shall then transmit it to the Joint Fiscal Committee and to the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Transportation.

(b) If the Agency is awarded an INFRA grant as described in subsection (a) of this section and the grant requires that work under the grant begin during fiscal year 2019, the Agency shall include in its fiscal year 2019 budget adjustment proposal any adjustments to fiscal year 2019 appropriations and to the approved fiscal year 2019 Transportation Program that may be required to comply with the terms of the grant.

* * * Program Development; Traffic & Safety Operations * * *

Sec. 4. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT—TRAFFIC & SAFETY OPERATIONS

The following project is added to the candidate list of the Program Development—Traffic & Safety Program within the fiscal year 2019 Transportation Program: South Burlington STP SGNL () I-89 Exit 14 signal upgrades.

*** Program Development; Bike & Pedestrian Facilities ***

Sec. 5. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT—BIKE & PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

Spending authority on the Statewide—New Awards activity within the fiscal year 2019 Program Development—Bike & Pedestrian Facilities Program is amended as follows:

<u>FY19</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	0	0	0
ROW	0	0	0
Const	600,000	900,000	300,000
Total	600,000	900,000	300,000
<u>Sources of funds</u>			
State	300,000	450,000	150,000
Local	300,000	450,000	150,000
Federal	0	0	0
Total	600,000	900,000	300,000

*** Aviation Program ***

Sec. 6. AVIATION PROGRAM

For fiscal year 2019:

(1) The sources of funds for the AV-FY18-001 (local match of FAA projects; Burlington Airport) project within the Aviation Program are amended to read:

<u>FY19</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>Sources of funds</u>			
State	750,000	600,000	-150,000
Local	500,000	650,000	150,000
Federal	11,250,000	11,250,000	0
Total	12,500,000	12,500,000	0

(2) Spending authority of transportation funds in the Aviation Program is reduced by \$150,000.00.

*** Town Highway Bridge Program ***

Sec. 7. TOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGE PROGRAM

The following project is added to the candidate list of the Town Highway Bridge Program within the fiscal year 2019 Transportation Program: Salisbury – Cornwall BO 1445(), scoping for replacement of BR8 over the Otter Creek.

* * * Maintenance Program and District Leveling * * *

Sec. 8. MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AND DISTRICT LEVELING;
SPENDING AUTHORITY

(a) As used in this section, “TDI” refers to Champlain VT, LLC d/b/a TDI New England and “TDI Agreement” refers to the lease option agreement entered into between TDI and the State on July 17, 2015.

(b) Authorized spending in fiscal year 2019 for the Statewide District Leveling activity in the Program Development—Paving Program is reduced by \$2,400,000.00 in transportation funds and increased by \$2,400,00.00 in federal funds.

(c) Authorized spending in fiscal year 2019 for operating expenses in the Maintenance Program is reduced by \$1,600,000.00 in transportation funds.

(d) If TDI makes a payment to the State in fiscal year 2018 or 2019 pursuant to the TDI Agreement or pursuant to a renegotiation of the TDI Agreement, the Secretary shall allocate the amount of the payment received to the Statewide District Leveling activity or to the Maintenance Program, or to both, and authorized spending of transportation funds in fiscal year 2019 for the Statewide District Leveling activity and for the Maintenance Program is increased in accordance with the allocation made.

(e) If TDI makes no payment to the State in fiscal year 2018 or 2019 pursuant to the TDI Agreement or a renegotiation thereof or if a payment made by TDI is insufficient to restore the reduction in spending authority made in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Secretary shall allocate any unreserved surplus in the Transportation Fund as of the end of fiscal year 2018 to the Statewide District Leveling activity or to the Maintenance Program, or to both, and authorized spending of transportation funds in fiscal year 2019 for the Statewide District Leveling activity and for the Maintenance Program is increased in accordance with the allocation made.

(f)(1) Subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection, and notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 706, if the contingent allocations directed in subsections (d) and (e) of this section do not occur or are insufficient to restore the reduction in spending authority made in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Secretary of Administration, after consulting with the Secretary of Transportation, is authorized to transfer balances of fiscal year 2019 Transportation Fund appropriations within the Agency to the extent required to

restore the reduction in spending authority made in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, and authorized spending of transportation funds in fiscal year 2019 for the Statewide District Leveling activity and for the Maintenance Program is increased in accordance with the balances transferred.

(2) An appropriation may be transferred pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection only if the monies are not needed for a project:

(A) because the project has been delayed due to permitting, right-of-way, or other unforeseen issues; or

(B) because of cost savings generated by the project.

(3) In making any appropriation transfer authorized under this section, the Secretary of Administration shall avoid, to the extent possible, any reductions in appropriations to the town programs described in 19 V.S.A. § 306. Any reductions to these town programs shall not affect the timing of reimbursements to towns for projects or delay any projects or grants and shall be replaced in the affected appropriations in fiscal year 2020.

* * * Contingent Addition to State Highway System * * *

Sec. 9. CONTINGENT ADDITION OF VERMONT ROUTE 119 IN THE TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO TO THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

(a) If the condition specified in subsection (b) of this section is satisfied, pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 15(a), upon substantial completion of construction of the Brattleboro-Hinsdale, NH bridge replacement project (BF A004(152)), the following highway segment in the Town of Brattleboro shall be added to the State highway system: the entirety of the new Vermont Route 119 in the Town of Brattleboro, extending from its intersection with Vernon Street (TH#4) to the westerly low watermark of the Connecticut River.

(b) The addition to the State highway system specified in subsection (a) of this section shall occur only if the Town of Brattleboro enters into a maintenance agreement with the Agency.

* * * Abandoned Aircraft * * *

Sec. 10. 5 V.S.A. chapter 9 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 9. GENERAL PROVISIONS; ABANDONED AIRCRAFT

Subchapter 1. Aeronautics; Authority and Duties; Penalties

* * *

Subchapter 2. Abandoned Aircraft

§ 221. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Airport manager” means the owner of an airport in this State or an agent authorized to act on behalf of an airport owner.

(2) “Storage operator” means a person who stores an aircraft or aircraft component at the request of an airport manager.

§ 222. ABANDONED AIRCRAFT; AUTHORITY TO TAKE CUSTODY, REMOVE, AND STORE; NOTICE OF INTENT; LIMITATION ON LIABILITY

(a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, an airport manager who discovers an aircraft or aircraft component apparently abandoned, or an aircraft without a currently effective federal registration certificate, on the property of the airport has authority to:

(1) take custody of the aircraft or component;

(2) arrange for the aircraft or component to be secured and stored at its current location or to be removed and stored elsewhere.

(b)(1) As used in this subsection, a “notice of intent” shall include:

(A) a statement of the airport manager’s intent to exercise authority under subsection (a) of this section and of the owner’s responsibility for reasonable charges under this subchapter;

(B) the make and the factory or identification number of the aircraft or aircraft component;

(C) the current location of the aircraft or aircraft component and the planned location for its storage; and

(D) the aircraft registration number, if any.

(2) At least 60 days prior to exercising the authority granted in subsection (a) of this section, the airport manager shall:

(A) Attempt to provide a notice of intent to the owner and to the lienholder, if any, of the aircraft or aircraft component. If the address of the last place of residence of the owner or lienholder of the aircraft or aircraft component is ascertainable through the exercise of reasonable diligence, including inquiry of the Federal Aviation Administration’s aircraft registry, the airport manager shall send the notice of intent by certified mail to the address or addresses; otherwise, the airport manager shall be deemed to have fulfilled the requirement of this subdivision (b)(2)(A) if the manager posts the notice of intent on the aircraft or aircraft component.

(B) Send a written notice of intent to the Secretary.

(c) The Secretary shall place on file notices of intent received under subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section and, upon request, make the notices available for public inspection and copying.

(d) Except in the case of intentionally inflicted damages, an airport manager who takes custody of an aircraft or aircraft component or an airport manager or storage operator who arranges for the removal or storage of an aircraft or aircraft component under this subchapter shall not be liable to the owner or lienholder for any damages to the aircraft or aircraft component incurred while it was in the manager's custody or during its removal or storage.

§ 223. LIEN; RIGHT TO CONTEST COSTS

(a) If the notice requirements of subsection 222(b) of this title are fulfilled, all reasonable storage, removal, and other costs necessarily incurred thereafter by an airport manager or a storage operator in carrying out the provisions of this subchapter shall be a lien on the aircraft or aircraft component held by the person who incurred the costs.

(b) In exercising rights under section 224 or 226 of this title, the owner or lienholder may contest the reasonableness and necessity of the costs by bringing an action before the Transportation Board.

§ 224. RIGHT OF OWNER TO RECLAIM

The owner or lienholder of an aircraft or aircraft component stored under this subchapter may reclaim the aircraft or aircraft component prior to any sale by paying the outstanding costs described in section 223 of this title.

§ 225. SALE AUTHORIZED; NOTICE OF PROPOSED SALE

(a) If the owner or lienholder has not reclaimed the aircraft or aircraft component after the aircraft manager fulfills the notice requirements of subsection 222(b) of this title, and if the airport manager fulfills the notice requirements of subsection (b) of this section, the airport manager may sell the aircraft or aircraft component in a commercially reasonable manner as described in 9A V.S.A. § 9-610 (disposition of collateral after default).

(b)(1) The notice of proposed sale required in this subsection shall include:

(A) the make and the factory or identification number of the aircraft or aircraft component;

(B) the aircraft registration number, if any;

(C) contact information for the person from whom the owner or lienholder may reclaim the aircraft or aircraft component pursuant to section 224 of this title; and

(D) the date and location of the proposed sale.

(2) At least 14 days before a sale under this section, the airport manager shall:

(A) if the value of the aircraft or aircraft component exceeds \$1,000.00, publish the notice of proposed sale in a media outlet of general circulation in the municipality; and

(B) if the address of the last place of residence of the owner or the lienholder, if any, of the aircraft or aircraft component is ascertainable through the exercise of reasonable diligence, including inquiry of the Federal Aviation Administration's aircraft registry, send the notice of proposed sale by certified mail to the address or addresses; otherwise, the airport manager shall be deemed to have fulfilled the requirement of this subdivision (b)(2)(B) if the manager posts the notice on the aircraft or aircraft component.

§ 226. APPLICATION OF PROCEEDS

The airport manager shall pay the balance of the proceeds of the sale, if any, after payment of liens and the reasonable expenses incident to the sale, to the owner or lienholder of the aircraft or aircraft component, if claimed at any time within one year from the date of the sale. If the owner or lienholder does not claim the balance within one year, the airport manager shall retain the proceeds.

* * * Abandoned Vessels * * *

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. chapter 48A is added to read:

CHAPTER 48A. ABANDONED VESSELS

§ 1420. VESSELS; ABANDONMENT PROHIBITED; REMOVAL AND DISPOSITION OF ABANDONED VESSELS

(a) Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Abandon" means, with respect to a vessel, any of the following:

(A) to leave unattended on public waters or on immediately adjacent land for more than 30 days without the express consent of the Secretary or, if on immediately adjacent land, of the person in control of the land;

(B) to leave partially or fully submerged in public waters for more than 30 days without the express consent of the Secretary;

(C) to leave partially or fully submerged in public waters a petroleum-powered vessel for more than 48 hours without the express consent of the Secretary; or

(D) to leave unattended on public waters or on immediately adjacent land for any period if the vessel poses an imminent threat to navigation or to public health or safety.

(2) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee.

(3) “Law enforcement officer” means an individual described in 23 V.S.A. § 3302 who is certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council as a level II or level III law enforcement officer under 20 V.S.A. § 2358.

(4)(A) “Public waters” means:

(i) the portions of Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, and the Connecticut River that are within the territorial limits of Vermont;

(ii) boatable tributaries of Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog upstream to the first barrier to navigation, and impoundments and boatable tributaries of those impoundments of the Connecticut River upstream to the first barrier to navigation, within the territorial limits of Vermont; and

(iii) all natural inland lakes, ponds, and rivers within Vermont, and other waters within the territorial limits of Vermont including the Vermont portion of boundary waters, that are boatable under the laws of this State.

(B) “Public waters” does not include waters in private ponds and private preserves as set forth in chapter 119 of this title.

(5) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee.

(6) “Storage operator” means:

(A) the Secretary, if storing an abandoned vessel after causing its removal pursuant to this section; or

(B) a person who stores a vessel removed pursuant to this section at the request of the Secretary, or a subsequent transferee thereof.

(7) “Vessel” means:

(A) a motorboat; or

(B) a sailboat, or other boat, that is 16 or more feet in length.

(b) Relationship with other laws. The authority conferred to the Secretary and the penalties established in this section are in addition to authority granted or penalties established elsewhere in law, and nothing in this section shall be construed to modify any authority or the application of penalties under any other provision of law, including under chapter 47, 159, 201, or 211 of this title.

(c) Abandonment of vessels prohibited.

(1) Civil violation. A person shall not abandon a vessel on public waters or immediately adjacent land. A person who violates this subdivision shall be subject to civil enforcement under chapters 201 and 211 of this title and, in any such enforcement action, the Secretary may obtain an order to recover costs specified in subdivision (d)(1) of this section incurred by the Agency of Natural Resources.

(2) Criminal violation. A person shall not knowingly abandon a petroleum-powered vessel or knowingly abandon a vessel that poses an imminent threat to navigation or to public health or safety. A person who violates this subdivision shall be subject to a fine of up to \$10,000.00.

(d)(1) Removal of abandoned vessel. Upon request from a law enforcement officer or at his or her own initiative, the Secretary shall promptly cause the removal and safe storage of a vessel that is abandoned as described in subdivision (a)(1) of this section, unless the vessel is to be removed by a federal agency. If removal is requested by a law enforcement officer, the Secretary shall make reasonable efforts to determine if the vessel qualifies as abandoned. In addition, the Secretary shall have the authority to take actions as may be necessary to eliminate risks to public health or safety caused by the condition of the vessel.

(2) Responsibility for costs; lien.

(A) The owner of a vessel removed under the authority of this section shall be responsible for reasonable:

(i) removal costs;

(ii) cleanup and disposal costs;

(iii) storage costs incurred after the storage operator sends the Department of Motor Vehicles a notice of removal consistent with subdivision (e)(1) of this section; and

(iv) costs of enforcing this section borne by the Secretary.

(B) Costs for which an owner is responsible under subdivision (d)(2)(A) of this section shall be a lien on the vessel held by the person who incurred the costs. Nothing in this subdivision (d)(2)(B) shall be construed to modify any rights or authority to recover such costs that may exist under any other provision of law.

(3) Limitation on liability. Except in the case of intentionally inflicted damages, the Secretary shall not be liable to the owner or lienholder of an abandoned vessel for any damages to the vessel incurred during its removal or storage, or as a result of actions taken to eliminate risks to public health or safety caused by the condition of the vessel, in accordance with this section.

(e)(1) Notice of removal and place of storage. Within three business days of the date of removal of an abandoned vessel, the storage operator shall send notice to the Commissioner of:

(A) the federal, state, or foreign registration number, and the hull identification number, of the vessel, if any;

(B) a description of the vessel, including its color, size, and, if available, its manufacturer's trade name and manufacturer's series name;

(C) the date of removal and the location from where the vessel was removed;

(D) the name and contact information of an individual at the Agency of Natural Resources who can provide information about the vessel's removal and how to reclaim it; and

(E) the periodic storage charges that will apply, if any.

(2) Listing of removed vessel. The Commissioner shall post and maintain on the website of the Department of Motor Vehicles a listing of vessels removed under the authority of this section with the information received under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(f) Disposition following removal.

(1) As used in this subdivision:

(A) A "notice of intent" shall include the information described in subdivision (e)(1) of this section and an indication of the storage operator's intent to take ownership or otherwise dispose of an abandoned vessel.

(B) The term "address" shall mean the plural "addresses" if more than one address is ascertained.

(2) Within 30 days after the date of removal of the abandoned vessel, a storage operator shall:

(A) Cause a notice of intent to be published in the environmental notice bulletin under 3 V.S.A. § 2826.

(B) Make reasonable efforts to ascertain the address of the owner and any lienholder and, if the address is ascertained, send the notice of intent to the address by certified mail, return receipt requested. Reasonable efforts shall include inquiring of the person in control of the waters or land from which the abandoned vessel was removed, the clerk of the municipality in which the waters or land is located, the State Police, the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Department of Motor Vehicles as to the identity and address of the owner and any lienholder.

(3) Ownership of the vessel shall pass to the storage operator free of all claims of any prior owner or lienholder if the owner or lienholder has not reclaimed the vessel and paid all costs authorized under subdivision (d)(2) of this section within 60 days after the later of:

(A) publication in the environmental notice bulletin under 3 V.S.A. § 2826; or

(B) if the address of the owner or lienholder is ascertained, the date the notice of intent is mailed.

(4) If ownership passes to the storage operator under this subsection, the storage operator may sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the vessel. However, if the vessel is subject to titling under 23 V.S.A. chapter 36, the storage operator shall apply to the Commissioner for a title or salvage title as may be appropriate, and the Commissioner shall issue an appropriate title or salvage title, at no charge, if the storage operator offers sufficient proof that ownership of the vessel lawfully passed to the storage operator under this section.

(g) Owner and lienholder rights. An owner or lienholder of an abandoned vessel removed from public waters or immediately adjacent land under this section may contest the removal, transfer of title, or other disposition of a vessel under this section, and the necessity or reasonableness of any costs described in subdivision (d)(2) of this section, by petitioning the Secretary. The contested case provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 shall govern any matter brought under this subsection. A person aggrieved by a final decision of the Secretary may appeal the decision to the Civil Division of the Superior Court. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to interfere with the right of an owner or lienholder to contest these issues in any enforcement action brought by the Secretary.

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 8003 is amended to read:

§ 8003. APPLICABILITY

(a) The Secretary may take action under this chapter to enforce the following statutes and rules, permits, assurances, or orders implementing the following statutes, and the Board may take such action with respect to subdivision (10) of this subsection:

* * *

(27) 10 V.S.A. chapter 123, relating to threatened and endangered species; and

(28) 30 V.S.A. § 255, relating to regional coordination to reduce greenhouse gases; and

(29) 10 V.S.A. § 1420, relating to abandoned vessels.

* * *

* * * Railroads; Vegetation Control * * *

Sec. 13. 5 V.S.A. § 3672 is amended to read:

§ 3672. ~~SELECTBOARD MEMBERS' DUTIES; RECOVERY~~

~~In case of failure so to do in a town through which such road passes, the selectboard members shall send notice thereof by mail to the principal office of such person or corporation. In case such failure continues for ten days after notice, the selectboard members shall forthwith cause the thistles and weeds to be destroyed at the expense of the town. Such town shall thereupon be entitled to recover from such person or corporation its actual cost for destroying the thistles and weeds. In the event such person or corporation fails to pay to the town such cost for 60 days from the time the selectboard members sent notice thereof by mail to the principal office of such person or corporation, such town shall be entitled to recover such cost including a reasonable fee paid to an attorney for the recovery in an action on this statute. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 14. 5 V.S.A. § 3673 is amended to read as follows:

§ 3673. ~~CUTTING OF TREES~~ VEGETATION CONTROL

~~A person or corporation operating a railroad in this State shall cause all trees, shrubs, and bushes to be destroyed at reasonable times within the surveyed boundaries of their lands, for a distance of 80 rods in each direction from all public grade crossings. A railroad shall take reasonable measures to control vegetation that is both on railroad property and on or immediately adjacent to the roadbed, so that the vegetation does not obstruct a highway user's view of traffic control devices at a grade crossing or of a train approaching the crossing.~~

Sec. 15. 5 V.S.A. § 3674 is amended to read:

§ 3674. ~~SELECTBOARD MEMBERS' DUTIES; LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES~~ ENFORCEMENT

~~When such person or corporation neglects or refuses to destroy the trees, shrubs, and bushes, as required by section 3673 of this title, after 60 days' notice in writing, given by the selectboard members of the town in which such trees, shrubs, and bushes are located, the selectboard members shall immediately cause them to be destroyed at the expense of the town. The town shall thereafter be entitled to recover from such person or corporation its actual cost for the destruction. In the event such person or corporation fails to pay to the town such cost for 60 days from the time the selectboard members sent notice thereof by mail to the principal office of such person or corporation,~~

such town shall be entitled to recover such cost including a reasonable fee. If a railroad fails to control vegetation as required by section 3671 or 3673 of this title within 30 days after written notice is given by the selectboard of the town in which the vegetation is located or by the Agency in the case of violations involving a State highway grade crossing, the Transportation Board, upon application by the town or the Agency and after notice and hearing, may order the railroad to perform the work. Any such order shall specify a date by which the work must be completed. If the railroad fails to comply with the Board's order, the Board may impose a civil penalty of \$100.00 against the railroad for each day that the railroad fails to comply with the Board's order.

* * * Penalties for Furnishing Alcoholic Beverages to Minors * * *

Sec. 16. 7 V.S.A. § 658 is amended to read:

§ 658. SALE OR FURNISHING TO MINORS; ENABLING
CONSUMPTION BY MINORS; MINORS CAUSING DEATH OR
SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

* * *

(d)(1) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section, where the person under 21 years of age, while operating a motor vehicle, snowmobile, vessel, or all-terrain vehicle on a public highway, public land, or public waters, or in a place where a Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) trail maintenance assessment or a Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) Trail Access Decal is required, causes death or serious bodily injury to himself or herself or to another person as a result of the violation, shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

(2) As used in this subsection:

(A) “All-terrain vehicle” shall have the same meaning as set forth in 23 V.S.A. § 3501.

(B) “Public land” means all land in Vermont that is either owned or controlled by a local, State, or federal governmental body.

(C) “Public waters” shall have the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 1422.

(D) “Snowmobile” shall have the same meaning as set forth in 23 V.S.A. § 3201.

(E) “Vessel” shall have the same meaning as set forth in 23 V.S.A. § 3302.

* * * President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site;

Supplemental Guide Signs * * *

Sec. 17. 10 V.S.A. § 494 is amended to read:

§ 494. EXEMPT SIGNS

The following signs are exempt from the requirements of this chapter except as indicated in section 495 of this title:

* * *

~~(6)(A)~~ Official traffic control signs, including signs on limited access highways, consistent with the ~~manual on uniform traffic control devices, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)~~ adopted under 23 V.S.A. § 1025, directing people to:

~~(i)~~ other towns;

~~(ii)~~ international airports;

~~(iii)~~ postsecondary educational institutions;

~~(iv)~~ cultural and recreational destination areas;

~~(v)~~ nonprofit diploma-granting diploma-granting educational institutions for people with disabilities; and

~~(vi)~~ ~~official traffic control signs, including signs on limited access highways, consistent with the manual on uniform traffic control devices, adopted under 23 V.S.A. § 1025, directing people to~~ official State visitor information centers.

~~(B)~~ After having considered the six priority categories in this subdivision ~~(A)~~ of this subdivision (6), the Travel Information Council may approve installation of a sign for any of the following provided the location is open a minimum of 120 days each year and is located within 15 miles of an interstate highway exit:

~~(A)(i)~~ Nonprofit nonprofit museums;

~~(B)(ii)~~ ~~Cultural~~ cultural and recreational attractions owned by the State or federal government;

~~(C)(iii)~~ ~~Officially~~ officially designated scenic byways;

~~(D)(iv)~~ ~~Park~~ park and ride or multimodal centers; and

~~(E)(v)~~ Fairgrounds fairgrounds or exposition sites;

~~provided the designations in subdivisions (A) through (E) of this subdivision (6) are open a minimum of 120 days each year and are located within 15 miles of an interstate highway exit.~~

(C) Notwithstanding the limitations of this subdivision (6), supplemental guide signs consistent with the MUTCD for the President Calvin

Coolidge State Historic Site may be installed at the following highway interchanges:

- (i) Interstate 91, Exit 9 (Windsor); and
- (ii) Interstate 89, Exit 1 (Quechee).

(D) Signs erected under this subdivision (6) ~~of this section~~ shall not exceed a maximum allowable size of 80 square feet.

* * *

* * * Central Garage * * *

Sec. 18. 19 V.S.A. § 13 is amended to read:

§ 13. CENTRAL GARAGE FUND

(a) There is created ~~a central garage fund~~ the Central Garage Fund which shall be used:

(1) to furnish equipment on a rental basis to the districts and other sections of the agency Agency for use ~~in~~ construction, maintenance, and operation of highways or other transportation activities; and

(2) to provide a general equipment repair and major overhaul service as well as to furnish necessary supplies for the operation of the equipment.

(b) To maintain a safe, reliable equipment fleet, new or replacement highway maintenance equipment shall be acquired using ~~central garage funds~~ Central Garage Fund monies. The agency Agency is authorized to acquire replacement pieces for existing highway equipment, or new, additional equipment equivalent to equipment already owned; however, the agency Agency shall not increase the total number of permanently assigned or authorized motorized or self-propelled vehicles without legislative approval by the General Assembly.

~~(c)(1) There shall be established and maintained within the central garage fund a separate transportation equipment replacement account for the purposes stated in subsection (b) of this section. In fiscal year 2008, \$1,120,000.00, and thereafter an amount equal to two-thirds of one percent of the prior year transportation fund appropriation, but not less than \$1,120,000.00, shall be transferred prior to August 1 from the transportation fund to the central garage fund and allocated to the transportation equipment replacement account, and beginning in fiscal year 2001, and thereafter, an amount not less than the sum of equipment depreciation expense and net equipment sales from the prior fiscal year, shall be allocated prior to August 1 from within the central garage fund to the transportation equipment replacement account. All expenditures from this account shall be appropriated by the general assembly and used~~

~~exclusively for the purchase of equipment as authorized in subsection (b) of this section.~~ For the purpose specified in subsection (b) of this section, the following amount shall be transferred from the Transportation Fund to the Central Garage Fund:

(A) in fiscal year 2019, \$1,318,442.00; and

(B) in subsequent fiscal years, at a minimum, the amount specified in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1) as adjusted annually by increasing the previous fiscal year's amount by the percentage increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) during the previous State fiscal year.

(2) Each fiscal year, the sum of the following shall be appropriated from the Central Garage Fund exclusively for the purpose specified in subsection (b) of this section:

(A) the amount transferred pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection;

(B) the amount of the equipment depreciation expense from the prior fiscal year; and

(C) the amount of the net equipment sales from the prior fiscal year.

~~(d) In each fiscal year, net income of the fund~~ Fund ~~earned during that fiscal year shall be retained in the fund~~ Fund.

~~(e) The fiscal year of the central garage for~~ For the purposes of computing net worth and net income, the fiscal year shall be the year ending June 30.

~~(f) For purposes of~~ As used in this section, "equipment" means registered motor vehicles and highway maintenance equipment assigned to the ~~central garage~~ Central Garage.

(g) [Repealed.]

* * * Town Highway Aid * * *

Sec. 19. 19 V.S.A. § 306 is amended to read:

§ 306. APPROPRIATION; STATE AID FOR TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) General State aid to town highways.

(1) An annual appropriation to class 1, 2, and 3 town highways shall be made. This appropriation shall increase ~~or decrease~~ over the previous fiscal year's appropriation by the same percentage as ~~any increase or decrease in~~ the following, whichever is less:

(A) the ~~Transportation~~ year-over-year increase in the Agency's total appropriations in the previous fiscal year funded by Transportation Fund

revenues, excluding the ~~town highway appropriations~~ appropriation for town highways under this subsection for that year; or

(B) the year-over-year increase in the State's total appropriations in the previous fiscal year of General Fund, Education Fund, and State Health Care Resources Fund monies.

(2) If the year-over-year change in appropriations specified in either subdivision (1)(A) or (B) of this subsection is negative, then the appropriation to town highways under this subsection shall be equal to the previous fiscal year's appropriation.

(3) The funds appropriated shall be distributed to towns as follows:

~~(1)~~(A) Six percent of the State's annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 1 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town's percentage of class 1 town highways of the total class 1 town highway mileage in the State.

~~(2)~~(B) Forty-four percent of the State's annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 2 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town's percentage of class 2 town highways of the total class 2 town highway mileage in the State.

~~(3)~~(C) Fifty percent of the State's annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 3 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town's percentage of class 3 town highways of the total class 3 town highway mileage in the State.

~~(4)~~(D) Monies apportioned under subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection shall be distributed to each town in quarterly payments beginning July 15 in each year.

~~(5)~~(E) Each town shall use the monies apportioned to it solely for town highway construction, improvement, and maintenance purposes or as the nonfederal share for public transit assistance. These funds may also be used for the establishment and maintenance of bicycle routes. The members of the selectboard shall be personally liable to the State, in a civil action brought by the Attorney General, for making any unauthorized expenditures from money apportioned to the town under this section.

* * *

* * * Transportation Public-Private Partnerships * * *

Sec. 20. 19 V.S.A. chapter 26 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 26. DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Subchapter 1. Design-build Contracts

* * *

Subchapter 2. Public-Private Partnership Pilot

§ 2611. PILOT ESTABLISHED; INTENT

(a)(1) The General Assembly hereby establishes a pilot program to authorize the Agency, for a time-limited period, to receive solicited and unsolicited proposals and to enter into P3 agreements if certain conditions are met.

(2) Nothing in this subchapter is intended to modify any obligations or rights under any other law.

(b) Before the authority conferred under this subchapter terminates, the General Assembly intends to:

(1) review whether and how the Agency has exercised the authority and whether the P3 agreements it has entered into have served the public interest; and

(2) determine whether the authority should terminate, be extended, or be amended.

(c) If the Agency's authority under this subchapter terminates, the General Assembly intends that:

(1) the Agency not have authority to pursue any proposal that has not resulted in a P3 agreement prior to termination of the Agency's authority; and

(2) any P3 agreement lawfully entered into prior to termination of the Agency's authority shall continue in effect after termination of the authority.

§ 2612. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Facility" means transportation infrastructure that is, or if developed, would be, within the jurisdiction of the Agency or eligible for federal-aid funding managed through the Agency.

(2) "Project" means the capital development of a facility.

(3) "Proposal" means a conditional offer of a private entity that, after review, negotiation, and documentation, and after legislative approval if required under this subchapter, may lead to a P3 agreement as provided in this subchapter.

(4) "Public-private partnership" or "P3" means an alternative project delivery mechanism that may be used by the Agency to permit private sector

participation in a project, including in its financing, development, operation, management, ownership, leasing, or maintenance.

(5) “P3 agreement” means a contract or other agreement between the Agency and a private entity to undertake a project as a public-private partnership and that sets forth rights and obligations of the Agency and the private entity in that partnership.

§ 2613. AUTHORITY

(a) The Agency is authorized to receive unsolicited proposals or to solicit proposals to undertake a project as a public-private partnership. The Agency shall develop, and have authority to amend, criteria to review and evaluate such proposals to determine if they are in the public interest and shall review and evaluate all proposals received in accordance with these criteria. In addition to other criteria that the Agency may develop, at minimum, the criteria shall require consideration of:

(1) the benefits of the proposal to the State transportation system and the potential impact to other projects currently prioritized in the most recently adopted Transportation Program;

(2) the extent to which a proposal would reduce the investment of State funds required to advance the project that the proposal addresses; and

(3) the extent to which a proposal would enable the State to receive additional federal funding that would not otherwise be available.

(b) If the Agency determines that a proposal is in the public interest:

(1) The Agency is authorized to enter into a P3 agreement with respect to the proposal without legislative approval if:

(A) the project has been approved in the most recently adopted Transportation Program; and

(B) total estimated State funding over the lifetime of the project will be less than \$2,000,000.00.

(2) For the following projects, the Agency is authorized to enter into a P3 agreement with respect to the proposal only if the Agency receives specific legislative approval to enter into the P3 agreement:

(A) a project that has not been approved in the most recently adopted Transportation Program; or

(B) a project for which total estimated State funding over the lifetime of the project will be \$2,000,000.00 or more.

§ 2614. LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL

If the Secretary determines that a proposal that requires legislative approval under section 2613 of this title is in the public interest and should be pursued, the Secretary shall submit to the General Assembly:

(1) a description of the proposal, including:

(A) a summary of the project scope and timeline;

(B) the rights and obligations of the State and private entity partner or partners, including the level of involvement of all partners in any ongoing operations, maintenance, and ownership of a facility;

(C) the nature and amount of State funding of the project and of any ongoing State financial responsibility for ongoing maintenance or operation costs; and

(D) its effect on any project in the most recent approved Transportation Program;

(2) a statement detailing how the proposal meets the Agency's criteria developed under this subchapter; and

(3) proposed legislation to confer authority to the Agency to enter into a P3 agreement with respect to the proposal.

§ 2615. REPORT

(a) Annually, on or before January 15, the Agency shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation:

(1) for each P3 agreement entered into following legislative approval required under this subchapter, for as long as the agreement is in effect, a description of the current status of the project and of any substantive change to the P3 agreement since the prior year's report; and

(2) for each P3 agreement entered into since the prior year's report pursuant to section 2613 of this title that did not require legislative approval, a description of the P3 agreement and of the project.

(b) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the annual report required under this section shall continue to be required unless the General Assembly takes specific action to repeal the report requirement.

* * * Sunset of Transportation Public-Private Partnership Authority * * *

Sec. 21. REPEAL OF TRANSPORTATION P3 AUTHORITY

19 V.S.A. §§ 2613 (Agency of Transportation's P3 authority) and 2614 (legislative approval of P3 proposals) shall be repealed on July 1, 2023.

* * * Gasoline Assessments; Calculations; Data Retention * * *

Sec. 22. 23 V.S.A. § 3106(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) For the purposes of subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection, ~~the~~:

(A) The tax-adjusted retail price applicable for a quarter shall be the average of the retail price for regular gasoline collected and determined to three decimal places and published by the Department of Public Service for each of the three months of the preceding quarter after all federal and State taxes and assessments, and the petroleum distributor licensing fee established by 10 V.S.A. § 1942, applicable in each month have been subtracted from that month's retail price. Calculations of the tax-adjusted retail price applicable for a quarter shall be permanently maintained on the website of the Department of Public Service.

(B) In calculating assessment amounts under subdivisions (a)(1)(B)(i)(II) and (a)(1)(B)(ii)(II) of this section, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall calculate the amounts to four decimal places. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall permanently retain the records of its calculations, any corrections thereto, and the data that are the basis for the calculations.

* * * Green Mountain Transit Authority; Name Update * * *

Sec. 23. 24 V.S.A. § 5084 is amended to read:

§ 5084. PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COUNCIL

(a) The Public Transit Advisory Council shall be created by the Secretary of Transportation under 19 V.S.A. § 7(f)(5), to consist of the following members:

* * *

(3) a representative of the ~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority;

* * *

Sec. 24. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 801 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 801. ~~CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION~~ GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

§ 1. CREATION OF AUTHORITY

There is hereby created a transit authority to be known as the "~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority."

* * *

§ 3. MEMBERSHIP IN THE AUTHORITY

Membership in the Authority shall consist of those municipalities which elect to join the Authority by majority vote of its voters present and voting on the question at an annual or special meeting duly warned for the purpose prior to July 1, 2010. Beginning on July 1, 2010, a municipality may hold an annual meeting or a special meeting for the purpose of determining through election by a majority vote of its voters present and voting on the question only if the municipality is specifically authorized to join the Authority either under section 12 of this chapter or by resolution duly passed by the ~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority Board of Commissioners. The initial meeting of a municipality called to determine whether or not to join the Authority shall be warned in the manner provided by law, except that for such meeting only, any warning need not be posted for a period in excess of 20 days, any other provision of law or municipal charter to the contrary notwithstanding. Membership may be terminated only in the manner provided in section 8 of this chapter.

* * *

§ 11. ASSESSMENTS OF NEW MEMBERS OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Municipalities outside Chittenden County that vote to join the ~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority on or after July 1, 2010 shall negotiate with the Board of Commissioners of the ~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority on the amount of the levy to be assessed upon the municipality and terms of payment of that assessment; and the municipality may not join prior to agreement with the Authority on terms of the levy and payment. Upon the addition of one municipality to the membership of the ~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority from outside Chittenden County, the Authority shall immediately begin work on the formula for assessment that will be approved in accordance with this chapter.

§ 12. MUNICIPALITIES AUTHORIZED TO VOTE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ~~CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION~~ GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The following municipalities are authorized to hold an election for the purpose of determining membership in the ~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority: Barre City, Berlin, Colchester, Hinesburg, Montpelier, Morristown, Richmond, St. Albans City, Stowe, and Waterbury.

§ 13. OTHER REPRESENTATION

If Washington, Lamoille, Franklin, or Grand Isle County does not have a municipal member from its county on the Board of Commissioners of the

~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority, the regional planning commission serving the ~~County~~ county may appoint a Board member to the ~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority from a member of its regional planning commission or regional planning commission staff to represent its interests on the ~~Chittenden County Transportation~~ Green Mountain Transit Authority Board.

* * * Electric Vehicles; Public Service * * *

Sec. 25. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION; INVESTIGATION; ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

(a) After notice and opportunity for hearing, the Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission) shall complete an investigation and issue a final order on or before July 1, 2019 concerning the charging of plug-in electric vehicles (EV).

(b) As used in this section, “electric distribution utility” means a company that delivers electric energy to retail customers over a pole-and-wire network.

(c) The Commission’s final order shall include:

(1) its findings, determinations, or recommendations on each of the following issues related to the role of electric distribution utilities:

(A) removal or mitigation, as appropriate, of barriers to EV charging, including strategies, such as time-of-use rates, to reduce operating costs for current and future EV users without shifting costs to ratepayers who do not own or operate EVs;

(B) strategies for managing the impact of EVs on and services provided by EVs to the electric transmission and distribution system;

(C) electric system benefits and costs of EV charging, electric utility planning for EV charging, and rate design for EV charging; and

(D) the appropriate role of electric distribution utilities with respect to the deployment and operation of EV charging stations;

(2) its findings or recommendations, or both, on each of the following issues related to EV charging stations owned or operated by persons other than electric distribution utilities:

(A) the recommended scope of the jurisdiction of the Commission, the Department of Public Service, and other State agencies over such stations;

(B) the appropriate oversight of the rates and prices charged by such stations, including the transparency to the consumer of those rates and prices; and

(C) the recommended billing and complaint procedures for such charging stations; and

(3) its findings or recommendations, or both, on each of the following issues:

(A) jointly with the Secretary of Transportation, recommended options to address how EV users pay toward the cost of maintaining the State's transportation infrastructure;

(B) the accuracy of electric metering and submetering technology for charging EVs;

(C) strategies to encourage EV usage at a pace necessary to achieve the goals of the State's Comprehensive Energy Plan and its greenhouse gas reduction goals, without shifting costs to electric ratepayers who do not own or operate EVs; and

(D) any other issues the Commission considers relevant to ensuring a fair, cost-effective, and accessible EV charging infrastructure that will be sufficient to meet increased deployment of EVs.

(d) During the course of the investigation and in its final order, the Commission shall identify recommendations on the issues identified in subsection (c) of this section that may require enabling legislation.

(e) The Commission shall submit copies of its final order to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, the House Committee on Energy and Technology, and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy.

* * * All-terrain Vehicles; Enforcement * * *

Sec. 26. 23 V.S.A. § 3507 is amended to read:

§ 3507. ENFORCEMENT; PENALTIES AND REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION

* * *

(c) Law enforcement officers may conduct safety inspections on all-terrain vehicles stopped for other all-terrain vehicle law violations on the VASA Trail System. Safety inspections may also be conducted in a designated area by law enforcement officials. A designated area shall be warned solely by blue lights either on a stationary all-terrain vehicle parked on a trail or on a cruiser parked at a roadside trail crossing.

* * * All-terrain Vehicles; Operation Along Highways * * *

Sec. 27. 23 V.S.A. § 3506 is amended to read:

§ 3506. OPERATION

(a) A person ~~may~~ shall only operate or permit an all-terrain vehicle owned by him or her or under his or her control to be operated in accordance with this chapter.

(b) An all-terrain vehicle ~~may~~ shall not be operated:

(1) Along a public highway ~~unless it~~ except if one or more of the following applies:

(A) the highway is not being maintained during the snow season or ~~unless;~~

(B) the highway has been opened to all-terrain vehicle travel by the selectboard or trustees or local governing body and is so posted by the municipality ~~except an;~~

(C) the all-terrain vehicle is being used for agricultural purposes ~~may~~ be and is operated not closer than three feet from the traveled portion of any highway for the purpose of traveling within the confines of the farm; or

(D) the all-terrain vehicle is being used by an employee or agent of an electric transmission or distribution company subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission under 30 V.S.A. § 203 for utility purposes, including safely accessing utility corridors, provided that the all-terrain vehicle shall be operated along the edge of the roadway and shall yield to other vehicles.

* * *

* * * All-terrain Vehicles; Allocation of Fees and Penalties * * *

Sec. 28. 23 V.S.A. § 3513 is amended to read:

§ 3513. LIABILITY INSURANCE; AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT FOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

(a) The amount of ~~85~~ 90 percent of the fees and penalties collected under this ~~subchapter~~ chapter, except interest, is ~~hereby~~ allocated to the Agency of Natural Resources for use by the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) for development and maintenance of a Statewide ATV Trail Program, for trail liability insurance, and to contract for law enforcement services with any constable, sheriff's department, municipal police department, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife for purposes of trail compliance pursuant to this chapter. The Departments of Public Safety and of Fish and Wildlife are authorized to contract with VASA to provide these law enforcement services. ~~The Agency of Natural Resources may retain for its use up to \$7,000.00 during each fiscal year to be used for~~

~~administration of the State grant that supports this program.~~

(b) ~~The Office of the~~ Secretary of Administration shall assist VASA with the procurement of trail liability and other related insurance.

* * *

Sec. 29. 23 V.S.A. § 3513(a) is amended to read:

(a) The amount of ~~90~~ 85 percent of the fees and penalties collected under this chapter, except interest, is allocated to the Agency of Natural Resources for use by the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) for development and maintenance of a Statewide ATV Trail Program, for trail liability insurance, and to contract for law enforcement services with any constable, sheriff's department, municipal police department, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife for purposes of trail compliance pursuant to this chapter. The Departments of Public Safety and of Fish and Wildlife are authorized to contract with VASA to provide these law enforcement services.

* * * Default Weight Limits on Town Highways * * *

Sec. 30. 23 V.S.A. § 1392 is amended to read:

§ 1392. GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS ON HIGHWAYS

Except as provided in section 1400 of this title, a person or corporation shall not operate or cause to be operated a motor vehicle in excess of the total weight, including vehicle, object, or contrivance and load, of:

(1) 16,000 pounds upon any bridge with a wood floor, wood subfloor, or wood stringers on a class 3 or 4 town highway or 20,000 pounds on a bridge with wood floor, wood subfloor, or wood stringers on a class 1 or 2 town highway unless otherwise posted by the selectboard of such town.

(2) 24,000 pounds, upon a class 2, 3, or 4 town highway or bridge with other than wood floor, in any town, or incorporated village, ~~or city~~.

* * *

Sec. 31. 23 V.S.A. § 1393 is amended to read:

§ 1393. WEIGHT LIMITS IN ~~INCORPORATED VILLAGES AND CITIES;~~
ADOPTION BY TOWNS OR INCORPORATED VILLAGES OF
STATE LIMITS; LIMITS ON CLASS 1 TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a)(1) On all highways in ~~an incorporated village or a city~~, the legal load shall be as prescribed for the State Highway System in section 1392 of this title, unless otherwise restricted and posted by the local authorities, as provided in this subchapter.

(2) ~~With the approval of the Secretary of Transportation, the selectboard legislative body of a town or incorporated village may designate any highway in the town under its jurisdiction to carry the same legal load as specified in section 1392 of this title for the State highways Highway System. When a certain highway has been so approved by the Secretary and the legislative body as to the legal load limit, then the Secretary shall have the highway posted for the legal load limit.~~

(3) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, Except as provided in subdivision 1392(1) of this title, State highway Highway System weight limits as specified in section 1392 of this title shall apply to class 1 town highways.~~

* * *

* * * Signs Indicating Weight Limits * * *

Sec. 32. 23 V.S.A. § 1394 is amended to read:

§ 1394. DESIGNATION OF CLASS 1 TOWN HIGHWAYS; SIGNS INDICATING LEGAL LOAD OFF STATE HIGHWAYS OR CLASS 1 TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) ~~The class 1 town highways connecting the State highways through cities, villages, or municipalities towns shall be designated by the State Transportation Board and marked by the State Secretary of Transportation.~~

(b) ~~The State Secretary of Transportation shall have signs erected on each road which town highway that leads off the State Highway System stating the legal load of the town highway leading from, if the legal load of the town highway differs from the legal load on the State Highway System.~~

(c) ~~If the legal load limit of a class 2, 3, or 4 town highway leading off a class 1 town highway differs from the legal load limit on the class 1 town highway, the Secretary of Transportation shall furnish a sign to the municipality where the class 1 town highway is located, as needed to indicate the legal load for each town highway leading from the class 1 town highway that has a different legal load. The Secretary shall furnish the sign, and any replacement sign as may be needed, at no cost to the municipality. The municipality shall be responsible for erecting each sign furnished to it under this subsection on each town highway leading off a class 1 town highway that has a legal load limit that differs from the limit on the class 1 town highway.~~

* * * Aircraft Fuel Tax * * *

Sec. 33. 23 V.S.A. chapter 28 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 28. GASOLINE TAX

Subchapter 1. General Gasoline Tax

§ 3101. DEFINITIONS; SCOPE

(a) As used in this chapter:

(1) The term “distributor” as used in this subchapter shall mean a person, firm, or corporation who imports or causes to be imported gasoline or other motor fuel for use, distribution, or sale within the State, or any person, firm, or corporation who produces, refines, manufactures, or compounds gasoline or other motor fuel within the State for use, distribution, or sale. When a person receives motor fuel in circumstances ~~which~~ that preclude the collection of the tax from the distributor by reason of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the United States, and thereafter sells or uses the motor fuel in the State in a manner and under circumstances as may subject the sale to the taxing power of the State, the person shall be considered a distributor and shall make the same reports, pay the same taxes, and be subject to all provisions of this subchapter relating to distributors of motor fuel.

(2) “Dealer” means any person who sells or delivers motor fuel into the fuel supply tanks of motor vehicles or aircraft owned or operated by others.

(3) “Motor vehicle” means any self-propelled vehicle using motor fuel on the public highways and registered or required to be registered for operation on these highways.

(b) As used in this subchapter:

(1) ~~“gasoline~~ “Gasoline or other motor fuel” or “motor fuel” includes aviation gasoline and shall not include the following:

(A) kerosene;

(B) clear or undyed diesel “fuel” as defined in section 3002 of this title;

(C) “railroad fuel” as defined in section 3002 of this title;

(D) aircraft jet fuel; or

(E) natural gas in any form.

(c) Except for “railroad fuel” taxed under section 3003 of this title, the taxation or exemption from taxation of dyed diesel fuel is not addressed under this title.

~~(4) “Motor vehicle” means any self-propelled vehicle using motor fuel on the public highways and registered or required to be registered for operation on these highways.~~

* * *

§ 3105. RECORDS OF SALES AND IMPORTATIONS

(a)(1) A distributor shall keep a record of all sales of motor fuel, ~~which~~ that shall include the number of gallons sold, the date of sale, and also the number of gallons used by the distributor. With every consignment of motor fuel to a purchaser within the State, each distributor shall also deliver a written statement containing the date and the number of gallons delivered and the names of the purchaser and the seller. The distributor shall also keep a record of all importations of motor fuel, ~~which~~ that shall include the number of gallons imported and the date of importation.

(2) With respect to any sale, use, consignment, or importation of aviation gasoline, a distributor shall separately record the same information required under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The records and statements shall be preserved by distributors and purchasers, respectively, for a period of three years, and shall be offered for inspection upon verbal or written demand of the Commissioner or his or her agent.

* * *

(d) A dealer shall keep a record of all purchases of motor fuel ~~which~~ that shall include the date of purchase, number of gallons, and the identity of the seller, and, if applicable, shall separately record this information with respect to the purchase of aviation gasoline. The records and statements shall be preserved for a period of three years. The record shall include daily motor fuel meter readings.

§ 3106. IMPOSITION, RATE, AND PAYMENT OF TAX

(a)(1) Except for sales of motor fuels between distributors licensed in this State, which sales shall be exempt from the taxes and assessments authorized under this section, unless exempt under the laws of the United States at the time of filing the report required by section 3108 of this title, each distributor shall pay to the Commissioner:

* * *

(4) The distributor shall also pay to the Commissioner the tax and assessments specified in this subsection upon each gallon of motor fuel used within the State by him or her.

(5) Monies collected on the sales and use of aviation gasoline pursuant to this subsection shall be used exclusively for aviation purposes consistent with 49 U.S.C. § 47133 and Federal Aviation Administration regulations and policies.

* * *

(d) Since many nonresidents and residents drive to outdoor areas of Vermont in order to view our natural resources, to hunt and fish, and to use our natural resources for other healthful recreational purposes, it is the policy of this State that a portion of the gasoline tax shall be dedicated for the purpose of conserving and maintaining our natural resources. Therefore, beginning in fiscal year 1998, three-eighths of one cent of the tax collected under subsection (a) of this section, except for the tax collected on aviation gasoline, shall be transferred 76 percent to the Fish and Wildlife Fund and 24 percent to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for natural resource management. Of the funds deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund, the interest earned by deposited funds and all funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the Fish and Wildlife Fund.

* * *

§ 3108. RETURNS

For the purpose of determining the amount of the tax levied and assessed, by the 25th day of each calendar month, each distributor shall send to the Commissioner upon a form prepared and furnished by him or her a statement or return under oath or affirmation, showing:

(1) both the number of gallons of motor fuel sold and the number of gallons of motor fuel used by the distributor during the preceding calendar month. ~~The report shall contain;~~

(2) separately, both the number of gallons of aviation gasoline sold and the number of gallons of aviation gasoline used by the distributor during the preceding calendar month; and

(3) any further information ~~which~~ that the Commissioner prescribes.

* * *

Sec. 34. 23 V.S.A. § 1220a(b) is amended to read:

(b) The DUI Enforcement Special Fund shall consist of:

* * *

(3) beginning May 1, 2013 and thereafter, \$0.0038 per gallon of the revenues raised by the motor fuel tax on gasoline imposed by chapter 28 of this title, except for the revenues raised by the tax on aviation gasoline; and

(4) any additional funds transferred or appropriated by the General Assembly.

Sec. 35. 5 V.S.A. § 211 is amended to read:

§ 211. APPROPRIATION FROM GASOLINE TAXES ON AIRCRAFT FUEL

Funds appropriated from the proceeds of ~~the any tax on gasoline used in aircraft and capital development projects for aeronautical purposes are to~~ aircraft fuel, including jet fuel and aviation gasoline, shall be expended under the direction of the Agency exclusively for aviation purposes consistent with 49 U.S.C. § 47133 and Federal Aviation Administration regulations and policies, including to provide:

- (1) navigational aids to airmen ~~or~~;
- (2) marking, lighting, removal, or elimination of obstructions or hazards to flight; ~~and to provide~~
- (3) for the improvement of landing areas or facilities that are permanently established for the public use of aircraft ~~or in any other way that will promote aviation in the State.~~

Sec. 36. 24 V.S.A. § 138 is amended to read:

§ 138. LOCAL OPTION TAXES

* * *

(c) Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Department of Taxes, in accordance with State law governing such State tax or taxes; provided, however, that a sales tax imposed under this section shall be collected on each sale that is subject to the Vermont sales tax using a destination basis for taxation. ~~A~~ Except with respect to taxes collected on the sale of aviation jet fuel, a per-return fee of \$5.96 shall be assessed to compensate the Department for the costs of administration and collection, 70 percent of which shall be borne by the municipality, and 30 percent of which shall be borne by the State to be paid from the PILOT Special Fund. The fee shall be subject to the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 605.

(d)(1) ~~Of~~ Except as provided in subsection (c) and subdivision (2) of this section with respect to taxes collected on the sale of aviation jet fuel, of the taxes collected under this section, 70 percent of the taxes shall be paid on a quarterly basis to the municipality in which they were collected, after reduction for the costs of administration and collection under subsection (c) of this section. Revenues received by a municipality may be expended for municipal services only, and not for education expenditures. Any remaining revenue shall be deposited into the PILOT Special Fund established by 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

(2)(A) Of the taxes collected under this section on the sale of aviation jet fuel, on a quarterly basis, 70 percent of the taxes shall be paid to the

municipality in which they were collected, and 30 percent shall be deposited in the Transportation Fund.

(B) All revenues referenced in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall be used exclusively for aviation purposes consistent with 49 U.S.C. § 47133 and Federal Aviation Administration regulations and policies.

Sec. 37. 19 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

§ 11. TRANSPORTATION FUND

The Transportation Fund shall comprise the following:

* * *

(4) monies received from the sales and use tax on aviation jet fuel and on natural gas used to propel a motor vehicle under 32 V.S.A. chapter 233, and from the portion of a local option tax on the sale of aviation jet fuel specified in 24 V.S.A. § 138;

* * *

* * * Petroleum Cleanup Fund; Releases of Aircraft Fuel * * *

Sec. 38. 10 V.S.A. § 1941 is amended to read:

§ 1941. PETROLEUM CLEANUP FUND

* * *

(b) The Secretary may authorize disbursements from the Fund for the purpose of the cleanup and restoration of contaminated soil and groundwater caused by releases of petroleum, including aviation gasoline, from underground storage tanks and aboveground storage tanks, including air emissions for remedial actions, and for compensation of third parties for injury and damage caused by a release. This Fund shall be used for no other governmental purposes, nor shall any portion of the Fund ever be available to borrow from by any branch of government; it being the intent of the General Assembly that this Fund and its increments shall remain intact and inviolate for the purposes set out in this chapter. Disbursements under this section may be made only for uninsured costs incurred after January 1, 1987 and for which a claim is made prior to July 1, 2019 and judged to be in conformance with prevailing industry rates. This includes:

* * *

Sec. 39. 5 V.S.A. § 693 is amended to read:

§ 693. CONDITIONS

A municipality receiving grants from the State of Vermont shall meet such conditions as the Secretary:

(1) may establish with respect to maintenance and continued use of the subject airport site for aeronautical purposes; and

(2) shall establish in order to require the municipality to assist the State in identifying vendors that distribute, sell, or use aircraft jet fuel in the State in connection with the airport.

* * * Passing Motor Vehicles and Vulnerable Users * * *

Sec. 40. 23 V.S.A. § 1033 is amended to read:

§ 1033. PASSING MOTOR VEHICLES AND VULNERABLE USERS

(a) Passing motor vehicles generally. Motor vehicles proceeding in the same direction may be overtaken and passed only as follows:

(1) The driver of a motor vehicle overtaking another motor vehicle proceeding in the same direction may pass to its left at a safe distance, and when so doing shall exercise due care, shall not pass to the left of the center of the highway except as authorized in section 1035 of this title, and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

(2) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken motor vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking motor vehicle and shall not increase the speed of his or her vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

(b) Passing Approaching or passing vulnerable users. The operator of a motor vehicle approaching or passing a vulnerable user as defined in subdivision 4(81) of this title shall exercise due care, which includes reducing speed and increasing clearance to a recommended distance of at least four feet, to pass the vulnerable user safely, and shall cross the center of the highway only as provided in section 1035 of this title. A person who violates this subsection shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$200.00.

(c) Approaching or passing certain stationary vehicles. The operator of a motor vehicle approaching or passing a stationary sanitation, maintenance, utility, or delivery vehicle with flashing lights shall exercise due care, which includes reducing speed and increasing clearance to a recommended distance of at least four feet, to pass the vehicle safely, and shall cross the center of the highway only as provided in section 1035 of this title. A person who violates this subsection shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$200.00.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 41. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 2 (federal infrastructure funding), 16 (penalties for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors), 20 (transportation public-private partnerships), 23–24 (Green Mountain Transit Authority name update), and 25 (PUC investigation; electric vehicle charging) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 30–32 (town highway weight limits; signs) and 33–37 (aircraft fuel taxes) shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

(c) Sec. 29, 23 V.S.A. § 3513(a) (sunset of change to ATV fee and penalty allocation) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 20, 2018, page 744 and March 21, 2018, page 783)

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator MacDonald for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Transportation with the following amendments thereto:

First: By striking out Sec. 25 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 25 to read:

Sec. 25. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION; REPORT;
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

(a) After providing public notice and an opportunity for submission of written information and conducting one or more workshops, the Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission) shall complete an evaluation and submit a written report on or before July 1, 2019 concerning the charging of plug-in electric vehicles (EV).

(b) As used in this section, “electric distribution utility” means a company that delivers electric energy to retail customers over a pole-and-wire network.

(c) The Commission shall provide direct notice of the opportunity and workshops described in subsection (a) of this section to the Agencies of Natural Resources and of Transportation, the Department of Public Service, each electric distribution utility, each efficiency entity appointed pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d) to deliver services to electric customers, and such other persons as the Commission may consider appropriate.

(d) The Commission’s report shall include:

(1) its analysis and recommendations on each of the following issues related to the role of electric distribution utilities:

(A) removal or mitigation, as appropriate, of barriers to EV charging, including strategies, such as time-of-use rates, to reduce operating costs for current and future EV users without shifting costs to ratepayers who do not own or operate EVs;

(B) strategies for managing the impact of EVs on and services provided by EVs to the electric transmission and distribution system;

(C) electric system benefits and costs of EV charging, electric utility planning for EV charging, and rate design for EV charging; and

(D) the appropriate role of electric distribution utilities with respect to the deployment and operation of EV charging stations;

(2) its analysis and recommendations on each of the following issues related to EV charging stations owned or operated by persons other than electric distribution utilities:

(A) how and on what terms, including quantity, pricing, and time of day, such charging stations will obtain electric energy to provide to EVs;

(B) what safety standards should apply to the charging of EVs;

(C) the recommended scope of the jurisdiction of the Commission, the Department of Public Service, and other State agencies over such stations;

(D) whether such stations will be free to set the rates or prices at which they provide electric energy to EVs, and any other issues relevant to the appropriate oversight of the rates and prices charged by such stations, including the transparency to the consumer of those rates and prices; and

(E) the recommended billing and complaint procedures for such charging stations; and

(3) its analysis and recommendations on each of the following issues:

(A) jointly with the Secretary of Transportation, recommended options to address how EV users pay toward the cost of maintaining the State's transportation infrastructure, including consideration of methods to assess the impact of EVs on that infrastructure and how to calculate a charge based on that impact, the potential assessment of a charge to EVs as a rate per kilowatt hour delivered to an EV; varying such a charge by size and type of EV; and phasing in such a charge;

(B) the accuracy of electric metering and submetering technology for charging EVs;

(C) strategies to encourage EV usage at a pace necessary to achieve the goals of the State’s Comprehensive Energy Plan and its greenhouse gas reduction goals, without shifting costs to electric ratepayers who do not own or operate EVs; and

(D) any other issues the Commission considers relevant to ensuring a fair, cost-effective, and accessible EV charging infrastructure that will be sufficient to meet increased deployment of EVs.

(e) During the course of the evaluation and in its report, the Commission shall identify recommendations on the issues identified in subsection (c) of this section that may require enabling legislation.

(f) The Commission shall submit copies of its report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, the House Committee on Energy and Technology, and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy.

Second: In Sec. 33, 23 V.S.A. chapter 28, in section 3105, in subsection (d), in the third sentence, by striking out the words “The record shall include” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “The Except for purchases of aviation gasoline, the record shall include”

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

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

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committees on Transportation and Finance with the following amendments thereto:

First: By adding two new sections to be numbered Secs. 41 and 42 to read as follows:

* * * Motor Vehicle Inspections * * *

Sec. 41. 23 V.S.A. § 1222 is amended to read:

§ 1222. INSPECTION OF REGISTERED VEHICLES

(a) Except for school buses₂ which shall be inspected as prescribed in section 1282 of this title₂ and motor buses as defined in subdivision 4(17) of this title₂ which shall be inspected twice during the calendar year at six-month intervals, all motor vehicles registered in this State shall be inspected once each year. Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer not currently inspected in this State shall be inspected within 15 days ~~from~~ following the date of its registration in the State of Vermont.

(b)(1) The inspections shall be made at garages or qualified service stations, designated by the Commissioner as inspection stations, for the purpose of determining whether those motor vehicles are properly equipped and maintained in good mechanical condition; provided, however, the scope of the safety inspection of a motor vehicle other than a school bus or a commercial motor vehicle shall be limited to parts or systems that are relevant to the vehicle's safe operation, and such vehicles shall not fail the safety portion of the inspection unless the condition of the part or system poses or may pose a danger to the operator or to other highway users.

(2) The charges for such inspections made by garages or qualified service stations designated to conduct periodic inspections shall be subject to the approval of the Commissioner. If a fee is charged for inspection, it shall be based upon the hourly rate charged by each official inspection station or it may be a flat rate fee and, in either instance, the fee shall be prominently posted and displayed beside the official inspection station certificate. In addition, the official inspection station may disclose the State inspection certificate charge on the repair order as a separate item and collect the charge from the consumer.

* * *

Sec. 42. RULEMAKING; TRANSITION

(a)(1) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this section, and not later than May 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles (Commissioner) shall file with the Secretary of State a proposed amended rule governing motor vehicle inspections (C.V.R. 14-050-022) that:

(A) is consistent with the permissible scope of safety inspections under the amendments to 23 V.S.A. § 1222 in Sec. 41 of this act; and

(B) clarifies ambiguous language in the rule.

(2) The amended rule described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be adopted so as to take effect no later than July 1, 2019.

(3) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this section, the Commissioner shall update the content of inspections conducted through the Automated Vehicle Inspection Program to exclude any requirement of C.V.R. 14-050-022 that is inconsistent with the permissible scope of safety inspections under the amendments to 23 V.S.A. § 1222 in Sec. 41 of this act, with the result that no vehicle will fail inspection as a result of any such inconsistent requirement.

(b) In the proposed rule amendments, the Commissioner may direct inspection stations to identify advisory, recommended repairs that are not required for the vehicle to pass inspection.

(c) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2) and subsection (d) of this section, nothing in this section or Sec. 41 of this act is intended to affect the emissions-related requirements of the rule governing motor vehicle inspections.

(d) Notwithstanding 10 V.S.A. § 567 and C.V.R. 14-050-022, the Commissioner may establish criteria to allow vehicles that would otherwise fail inspection as a result of the emissions component of the inspection to pass inspection and receive an inspection sticker, provided that the vehicle satisfies all inspection requirements that are relevant to the vehicle's safe operation. The authority conferred in this subsection shall expire on January 15, 2019.

(e) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this section, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, shall develop a program of waivers related to the emissions component of the State's inspection program that is consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and its implementing regulations.

(f) On November 30, 2018, the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of Environmental Conservation shall send a written update to the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee that includes:

(1) a copy of any criteria developed under the authority granted in subsection (d) of this section;

(2) if the authority granted in subsection (d) of this section is exercised:

(A) whether the authority is still being exercised; and

(B) the number of conditional passes issued since the effective date of this section;

(3) a summary of the status of efforts to amend the Department's rule as required under subsection (a) of this section, and an estimate of the likely effective date of the amended rule if not yet adopted; and

(4) a summary of the status of the requirement to develop a program of waivers related to the emissions component of the State's inspection program and any efforts to educate consumers and inspection stations about issues related to emissions inspections, including: the availability of any such waivers; manufacturer warranties available for emissions components for certain vehicle models and model years; and vehicle readiness for emissions testing.

And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

Second: In Sec. 43, EFFECTIVE DATES, by adding a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) Secs. 41–42 (motor vehicle inspections) shall take effect on passage, except that notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, in Sec. 42, subsection (d) shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2017.

And by relettering the remaining subsection to be alphabetically correct

(Committee vote: 4-0-3)

Joint Resolution for Action

J.R.S. 59.

Joint resolution supporting the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association's effort to preserve the Camp Letterman hospital site.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the Resolution be adopted?

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal of May 4, 2018, page 979)

NEW BUSINESS

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 196.

An act relating to paid family leave.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 471 is amended to read:

§ 471. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Employer" means an individual, organization or governmental body, partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, trustee, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, and any common carrier by rail, motor, water, air or express company doing business in or operating within this State ~~which for the purposes of parental leave that employs 10 or more individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week during a year and for the purposes of family leave employs 15 or more individuals for an average of at least 30 hours per week during a year.~~

* * *

(3) "Family leave" means a leave of absence from employment by an employee who works for an employer ~~which that~~ employs ~~15~~ 10 or more individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week during the year for one of the following reasons:

(A) the serious illness of the employee; ~~or~~

(B) the serious illness of the employee's child, stepchild or ward who lives with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee's spouse;

~~(4) "Parental leave" means a leave of absence from employment by an employee who works for an employer which employs 10 or more individuals who are employed for an average of at least 30 hours per week during the year for one of the following reasons:~~

~~(C) the employee's pregnancy;~~

~~(A)(D) the birth of the employee's child; or~~

~~(B)(E) the initial placement of a child 16 years of age or younger with the employee for the purpose of adoption or foster care.~~

~~(5)(4) "Serious illness" means an accident, disease, or physical or mental condition that:~~

* * *

~~(5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Labor.~~

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. § 472 is amended to read:

§ 472. FAMILY LEAVE

(a) During any 12-month period, an employee shall be entitled to take unpaid leave for a period not to exceed 12 weeks for the following reasons:

~~(1) for parental leave, during the employee's pregnancy and;~~

~~(2) following the birth of an the employee's child or;~~

~~(3) within a year following the initial placement of a child 16 years of age or younger with the employee for the purpose of adoption. or foster care;~~

~~(2)(4) for family leave, for the serious illness of the employee; or~~

~~(5) the serious illness of the employee's child, stepchild or ward of the employee who lives with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee's spouse.~~

(b) During the leave, at the employee's option, the employee may use accrued sick leave or vacation leave or any other accrued paid leave, ~~not to exceed six weeks~~ Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits pursuant to

subchapter 13 of this chapter, or short-term disability insurance or other insurance benefits. Utilization Use of accrued paid leave, Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits, or insurance benefits shall not extend the leave provided herein by this section.

* * *

(d) The employer shall post and maintain in a conspicuous place in and about each of ~~his or her~~ its places of business printed notices of the provisions of this subchapter on forms provided by the Commissioner of Labor.

(e)(1) An employee shall give his or her employer reasonable written notice of intent to take family leave under this subchapter. Notice shall include the date the leave is expected to commence and the estimated duration of the leave.

(2) In the case of the adoption or birth of a child, an employer shall not require that notice be given more than six weeks prior to the anticipated commencement of the leave.

(3) In the case of an unanticipated serious illness or premature birth, the employee shall give the employer notice of the commencement of the leave as soon as practicable.

(4) In the case of serious illness of the employee or a member of the employee's family, an employer may require certification from a physician to verify the condition and the amount and necessity for the leave requested.

(5) An employee may return from leave earlier than estimated upon approval of the employer.

(6) An employee shall provide reasonable notice to the employer of his or her need to extend the leave to the extent provided by this chapter.

* * *

(h) Except for serious illness of the employee, an employee who does not return to employment with the employer who provided the family leave shall return to the employer the value of any compensation paid to or on behalf of the employee during the leave, except payments of Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits and payments for accrued sick leave or vacation leave. An employer may elect to waive the rights provided pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13 is added to read:

Subchapter 13. Parental and Family Leave Insurance

§ 571. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Employee” means an individual who performs services in employment for an employer.

(2) “Employer” means an individual, organization, governmental body, partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, trustee, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, and any common carrier by rail, motor, water, air or express company doing business in or operating within this State.

(3) “Employment” has the same meaning as in subdivision 1301(6) of this title.

(4) “Family leave” means a leave of absence from employment by an employee for the serious illness of the employee’s child, stepchild or ward who lives with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee’s spouse.

(5) “Parental and bonding leave” means a leave of absence from employment by an employee for:

(A) the birth of the employee’s child; or

(B) the initial placement of a child 16 years of age or younger with the employee for the purpose of adoption or foster care.

(6) “Qualified employee” means an individual who has earned at least \$10,710.00 in employment in Vermont during the last 12 months.

(7) “Serious illness” means an accident, disease, or physical or mental condition that:

(A) poses imminent danger of death;

(B) requires inpatient care in a hospital; or

(C) requires continuing in-home care under the direction of a physician.

(8) “Wages” has the same meaning as in subdivision 1301(12) of this title.

§ 572. PARENTAL AND FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE; SPECIAL FUND; ADMINISTRATION

(a)(1) The Parental and Family Leave Insurance Program is established for the provision of Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits to eligible employees pursuant to this section.

(2) The collection of contributions pursuant to this section and the determination of monetary eligibility for benefits shall be administered by the Commissioner of Taxes. All other aspects of the Program shall be administered by the Commissioner of Labor.

(b) The Parental and Family Leave Insurance Special Fund is created pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. The Fund may be expended by the Commissioners of Labor and of Taxes for the administration of the Parental and Family Leave Insurance Program and payment of Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits provided pursuant to this section. All interest earned on Fund balances shall be credited to the Fund.

(c)(1)(A) The Fund shall consist of contributions equal to 0.141 percent of each employee's covered wages, which an employer shall deduct and withhold from each of its employee's wages.

(B) In lieu of deducting and withholding the full amount of the contribution pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1), an employer may elect to pay all or a portion of the contributions due from the employee's covered wages.

(C) As used in this subsection, the term "covered wages" does not include the amount of wages paid to an employee after he or she has received wages equal to \$150,000.00. Annually on January 1, the amount of wages included in the term "covered wages" shall be increased by the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index, CPI-U, U.S. city average, not seasonally adjusted, or successor index, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor or successor agency for the 12 months preceding the previous September 1. The amount of wages included in the term "covered wages" shall not be decreased.

(2)(A) Notwithstanding subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection (c), the General Assembly shall annually establish the rate of contribution for the next fiscal year. The rate shall equal the amount necessary to provide Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits pursuant to this subchapter, to maintain a reserve equal to at least nine months of the projected benefit payments for the next fiscal year, and to administer the Parental and Family Leave Insurance Program during the next fiscal year, adjusted by any balance in the Fund from the prior fiscal year.

(B) On or before February 1 of each year, the Commissioner of Labor, in consultation with the Commissioner of Taxes, shall report to the General Assembly the rate of contribution necessary to provide Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits pursuant to this subchapter, to maintain a reserve equal to at least nine months of the projected benefit payments for the next fiscal year, and to administer the Program during the next fiscal year, adjusted by any balance in the Fund from the prior fiscal year.

(d) The Commissioner of Taxes shall require the withholding of the contributions required pursuant to subsection (c) of this section from wages paid by any employer, as if the contributions were an additional Vermont

income tax subject to the withholding requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 5841(a). The administrative and enforcement provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 4 shall apply to the withholding requirement under this section as if the contributions withheld were a Vermont income tax.

§ 573. BENEFITS

(a) Except as otherwise provided pursuant to section 572 of this subchapter, a qualified employee awarded Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits under this section shall receive 70 percent of his or her average weekly wage or an amount equal to a 40-hour workweek paid at a rate double that of the livable wage, as determined by the Joint Fiscal Office pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 505, whichever is less.

(b) A qualified employee shall be permitted to receive a total of not more than 12 weeks of Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits in a 12-month period for family leave or parental and bonding leave, or both, which shall include:

(1) not more than 12 weeks of parental and bonding leave, provided that if both parents are qualified employees they shall be permitted to receive a combined total of not more than 12 weeks of Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits in a 12-month period for parental and bonding leave; and

(2) not more than six weeks of Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits in a 12-month period for family leave.

§ 574. APPLICATION FOR BENEFITS; PAYMENT; TAX WITHHOLDING

(a) A qualified employee shall file an application for Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits with the Commissioner of Labor under this section on a form provided by the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall determine whether the qualified employee is eligible to receive Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits based on the following criteria:

(1) The purposes for which the claim is made are adequately documented pursuant to rules adopted by the Commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner of Taxes certifies that the individual is a qualified employee.

(3) The qualified employee satisfies the eligibility requirements for the requested leave and has specified the duration of the leave.

(4) The benefits are being requested in relation to a family leave or a parental and bonding leave.

(b)(1) The Commissioner of Labor shall make a determination of each claim not later than five business days after the date the claim is filed, and Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits shall be paid from the Fund created pursuant to this section. The Commissioner may extend the time in which to make a determination of a claim by not more than five business days if necessary to obtain documents or information that are needed to make the determination.

(2) The first benefit payment shall be sent to a qualified employee within 14 days after his or her claim is approved, and subsequent payments shall be sent biweekly.

(3) The provisions of section 1367 of this title shall apply to Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits.

(c)(1) An individual filing a claim for benefits pursuant to this section shall, at the time of filing, be advised that Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits may be subject to income tax and that the individual's benefits may be subject to withholding.

(2) The Commissioner of Labor shall follow all procedures specified by 26 U.S.C. chapter 24 and 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 4 pertaining to the withholding of income tax.

§ 575. REINSTATEMENT; SENIORITY AND BENEFITS PROTECTED

(a) The employer of an employee who receives Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits under this subchapter shall reinstate the employee at the conclusion of his or her family leave or parental and bonding leave, provided the employee is not out of work for a continuous period in excess of 12 weeks. The employee shall be reinstated in the first available suitable position given the position he or she held at the time his or her leave began.

(b) Upon reinstatement, the employee shall regain seniority and any unused accrued paid leave he or she was entitled to prior to the family leave or parental and bonding leave, less any accrued paid leave used during the family leave or parental and bonding leave.

(c)(1) Nothing in this section shall be construed to diminish an employee's rights pursuant to subsection 472(f) of this chapter.

(2) The provisions of this section shall not apply if:

(A) the employee had been given notice, or had given notice, prior to the beginning of his or her leave;

(B) the employee's position would have terminated of its own terms prior to any reinstatement he or she would otherwise be entitled to under this section; or

(C) the employee fails to inform the employer of:

(i) his or her interest in being reinstated at the conclusion of the leave; and

(ii) the date on which his or her leave is anticipated to conclude.

(d)(1) An employee aggrieved by an employer's failure to comply with the provisions of this section may bring an action in the Civil Division of the Superior Court in the county where the employment is located for compensatory and punitive damages or equitable relief, including restraint of prohibited acts, restitution of wages or other benefits, reinstatement, costs, and other appropriate relief.

(2) A copy of the complaint shall be filed with the Commissioner of Labor.

(3) The court shall award reasonable attorney's fees to the employee if he or she prevails.

§ 576. APPEALS

(a)(1) An employer or individual aggrieved by a decision of the Commissioner of Labor under section 574 of this subchapter may file with the Commissioner a petition for reconsideration within 30 days after receipt of the decision. The petition shall set forth in detail the grounds upon which it is claimed that the decision is erroneous and may include materials supporting that claim.

(2) If an employer petitions the Commissioner to reconsider a decision pursuant to section 574 of this subchapter, the Commissioner shall promptly notify the individual of the petition by ordinary, certified, or electronic mail and provide him or her with an opportunity to file an answer to the employer's petition.

(3) The Commissioner shall promptly notify the employer or individual, or both, of his or her decision by ordinary, certified, or electronic mail.

(b)(1) An employer or individual aggrieved by the Commissioner's decision on reconsideration may file an appeal with a departmental administrative law judge within 30 days after receiving the Commissioner's decision. The appeal shall set forth in detail the grounds upon which it is claimed that the decision is erroneous.

(2) The administrative law judge shall, upon not less than five business days' notice, hold a hearing on the appeal as provided pursuant to rules adopted by the Commissioner. After the hearing, all parties to the appeal shall be promptly notified by ordinary, certified, or electronic mail of the findings of fact, conclusions, and decision of the administrative law judge.

(c) Any party may appeal the administrative law judge's decision to the Supreme Court within 30 days after receiving the decision.

(d) The provisions of section 1353 of this title shall apply to all determinations, redeterminations, findings of fact, conclusions of law, decisions, orders, or judgments entered or made pursuant to this section.

§ 577. FALSE STATEMENT OR REPRESENTATION; PENALTY

A person who willfully makes a false statement or representation for the purpose of obtaining any benefit or payment or to avoid payment of any required contributions under the provisions of this subchapter, either for himself or herself or for any other person, after notice and opportunity for hearing, may be assessed an administrative penalty of not more than \$20,000.00 and shall forfeit all or a portion of any right to benefits under the provisions of this subchapter, as determined to be appropriate by the Commissioner of Labor or of Taxes, as appropriate, after a determination by the Commissioner that the person has willfully made a false statement or representation of a material fact.

§ 578. RULEMAKING

(a) The Commissioner of Taxes shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this subchapter related to the collection of contributions pursuant to section 572 of this subchapter and the determination of monetary eligibility for benefits.

(b) The Commissioner of Labor shall adopt rules as necessary to implement all other provisions of this subchapter.

§ 579. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

(a) Information obtained from an employer or individual in the administration of this subchapter and determinations of an individual's right to receive benefits that reveal an employer's or individual's identity in any manner shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act. Such information shall not be admissible as evidence in any action or proceeding other than one brought pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section:

(1) an individual or his or her duly authorized agent may be provided with information to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of his or her claim for benefits or to inform him or her of his or her existing or prospective rights to benefits; and

(2) an employer may be provided with information that the Commissioner of Labor or of Taxes determines is necessary to enable the

employer to discharge fully its obligations and protect its rights under this subchapter.

Sec. 4. ADOPTION OF RULES

(a) On or before January 1, 2019, the Commissioner of Taxes shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13 related to the collection of contributions and the determination of monetary eligibility, which shall include:

- (1) procedures for the collection of contributions; and
- (2) reporting and record-keeping requirements for employers.

(b) On or before January 1, 2019, the Commissioner of Labor shall adopt rules necessary to implement all other provisions of 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13, which shall include:

- (1) procedures for receiving and processing applications for benefits;
- (2) acceptable documentation for demonstrating eligibility for benefits;
- (3) forms and requirements for providing certification from a health care provider of the need for family leave that are modeled on the federal rules governing certification of a serious health condition under the Family and Medical Leave Act;
- (4) forms and procedures for obtaining authorization for an individual's health care provider to disclose to the Commissioner information necessary to make a determination of the individual's eligibility for benefits; and
- (5) procedures for appealing a decision pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 574 that are modeled, to the extent possible, on the appeals process provided for determinations of benefits in relation to unemployment insurance.

Sec. 5. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

On or before January 1, 2019, the Commissioner of Labor shall develop and make available on the Department of Labor's website information and materials to educate and inform employers and employees about the Parental and Family Leave Insurance Program established pursuant to 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13.

Sec. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF PARENTAL AND FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE PROGRAM; EXPENDITURES FROM SPECIAL FUND

Beginning on July 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Finance and Management may, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 588(4)(C), issue warrants for expenditures from the Parental and Family Leave Insurance Special Fund necessary to establish

the Parental and Family Leave Insurance Program in anticipation of the receipt on or after July 1, 2019 of contributions submitted pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 572.

Sec. 7. ADEQUACY OF RESERVES; REPORT

Annually, on or before January 15, 2021, 2022, and 2023, the Commissioners of Labor and of Taxes, in consultation with the Commissioners of Finance and Management and of Financial Regulation, shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and on Finance regarding the amount and adequacy of the reserves in the Parental and Family Leave Insurance Special Fund and any recommendations for legislative action necessary to ensure that an adequate reserve is maintained in the Fund.

Sec. 8. 21 V.S.A. § 1344 is amended to read:

§ 1344. DISQUALIFICATIONS

(a) An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

* * *

(5) For any week with respect to which the individual is receiving or has received remuneration in the form of:

* * *

(F) Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits pursuant to chapter 5, subchapter 13 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(b) Secs. 1, 2, and 8 shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

(c) Contributions shall begin being paid pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 572 on July 1, 2019, and, beginning on October 1, 2020, employees may begin to receive benefits pursuant to 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for May 2, 2017, pages 1771-1791 and May 3, 2017, page 1868)

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 3, 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13, by striking out § 571 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

§ 571. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Employee” means an individual who receives payments with respect to services performed for an employer from which the employer is required to withhold Vermont income tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 4.

(2) “Employer” means an individual, organization, governmental body, partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, trustee, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, and any common carrier by rail, motor, water, air or express company doing business in or operating within this State.

(3) “Family leave” means a leave of absence from employment by an employee for the serious illness of the employee’s child, stepchild or ward who lives with the employee, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee’s spouse.

(4) “Parental and bonding leave” means a leave of absence from employment by an employee for:

(A) the birth of the employee’s child; or

(B) the initial placement of a child 16 years of age or younger with the employee for the purpose of adoption or foster care.

(5) “Qualified employee” means an individual who has earned at least \$10,710.00 in wages in Vermont during the last 12 months.

(6) “Serious illness” means an accident, disease, or physical or mental condition that:

(A) poses imminent danger of death;

(B) requires inpatient care in a hospital; or

(C) requires continuing in-home care under the direction of a physician.

(7) “Wages” means payments from an employer to an employee that are subject to income tax withholding pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 4.

Second: In Sec. 3, 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13, in § 572, by striking out subdivision (a)(2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(2)(A) The Commissioner of Taxes shall administer the collection of contributions, the determination of monetary eligibility for benefits, and the issuance of benefits checks for the program.

(B) The Commissioner of Labor shall administer the receipt and processing of benefits applications, the determination of eligibility for benefits, the collection of overpaid benefits, and all other aspects of the program that are not administered by the Commissioner of Taxes.

Third: In Sec. 3, 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13, in § 572, in subdivision (c)(1)(A) by striking out “0.141” and inserting in lieu thereof 0.136

Fourth: In Sec. 3, 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13, in § 575, after subdivision (c)(2)(C)(ii), by adding a subdivision (D) to read:

(D) More than two years have elapsed since the conclusion of the employee’s leave.

Fifth: In Sec. 3, 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13, in § 576, in subsection (a), after both instances of the number “574” by inserting or 581

Sixth: In Sec. 3, 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 13, after § 579, by adding §§ 580 and 581 to read:

§ 580. DISQUALIFICATIONS

A qualified employee shall be disqualified for benefits for any week in which he or she has received:

(1) compensation for temporary partial disability or temporary total disability under the workers’ compensation law of any state or under a similar law of the United States; or

(2) unemployment compensation benefits under the law of any state.

§ 581. OVERPAYMENT OF BENEFITS; COLLECTION

(a)(1) Any individual who by nondisclosure or misrepresentation of a material fact, by him or her, or by another person, has received Parental and Family Leave Insurance benefits when he or she failed to fulfill a requirement for the receipt of benefits pursuant to this chapter or while he or she was disqualified from receiving benefits pursuant to section 580 of this chapter shall be liable to repay to the Commissioner of Labor the amount received.

(2) Upon determining that an individual has received benefits under this chapter that he or she was not entitled to, the Commissioner of Labor shall provide the individual with notice of the determination. The notice shall include a statement that the individual is liable to repay to the Commissioner the amount of overpaid benefits and shall identify the basis of the overpayment and the time period in which the benefits were paid.

(3) The determination shall be made within not more than three years after the date of the overpayment.

(b)(1) An individual liable under this section shall repay the overpaid amount to the Commissioner for deposit in the Fund.

(2) If the Commissioner finds that the individual intentionally misrepresented or failed to disclose a material fact with respect to his or her claim for benefits, in addition to the repayment under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the person shall pay an additional penalty of 15 percent of the amount of the overpaid benefits, which shall also be deposited in the Fund.

(3) The Commissioner may collect the amounts due under this section in civil action in the Superior Court.

(c) If an individual is liable to repay any amount pursuant to this section, the Commissioner may withhold, in whole or in part, any future benefits payable to the individual pursuant to this chapter and credit the withheld benefits against the amount due from the individual until it is repaid in full, less any penalties assessed under subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

(d) In addition to the remedy provided pursuant to this section, an individual who intentionally misrepresented or failed to disclose a material fact with respect to his or her claim for benefits may be subject to the penalties provided pursuant to section 577 of this title.

Seventh: In Sec. 4, adoption of rules, by striking out each instance of “January 1, 2019” and inserting in lieu thereof April 1, 2019

Eighth: In Sec. 4, adoption of rules, in subsection (a), by striking out subdivisions (1) and (2) in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(1) procedures for the collection of contributions;

(2) procedures for the issuance of benefits payments; and

(3) reporting and record-keeping requirements for employers.

Ninth: In Sec. 5, education and outreach, by striking out “January 1, 2019” and inserting in lieu thereof June 1, 2019

(Committee vote: 6-1-0)

Reported without recommendation by Senator Starr for the Committee on Appropriations.

(Committee voted: 6-0-1)

H. 554.

An act relating to the regulation of dams.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Regulation of Dams * * *

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. chapter 43 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 43. DAMS

§ 1079. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this chapter to protect public safety and provide for the public good through the inventory, inspection, and evaluation of dams in the State.

§ 1080. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Department” means the ~~department of environmental conservation~~ Department of Environmental Conservation.

(2) “Person” means any individual; partnership; company; corporation; association; joint venture; trust; municipality; the ~~state~~ State of Vermont or any agency, department, or subdivision of the ~~state~~, State; any federal agency; or any other legal or commercial entity.

(3) ~~“Person in interest”~~ “Interested person” means, in relation to any dam, a person who has riparian rights affected by that dam; who has a substantial interest in economic or recreational activity affected by the dam; or whose safety would be endangered by a failure of the dam.

(4) “Engineer” means a professional engineer ~~registered~~ licensed under Title 26 who has experience in the design and investigation of dams.

(5) “Time” shall be reckoned in the manner prescribed by 1 V.S.A. § 138.

(6)(A) “Dam” means any artificial barrier, including its appurtenant works, that is capable of impounding water, other liquids, or accumulated sediments.

(B) “Dam” includes an artificial barrier that meets all of the following:

(i) previously was capable of impounding water, other liquids, or accumulated sediments;

(ii) was partially breached; and

(iii) has not been properly removed or mitigated.

(C) “Dam” shall not mean:

(i) barriers or structures created by beaver or any other wild animal as that term is defined in section 4001 of this title;

(ii) transportation infrastructure that has no normal water storage capacity and that impounds water only during storm events;

(iii) an artificial barrier at a stormwater management structure that is regulated by the Agency of Natural Resources under chapter 47 of this title;

(iv) an underground or elevated tank to store water otherwise regulated by the Agency of Natural Resources;

(v) an agricultural waste storage facility regulated by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215; or

(vi) any other structure identified by the Department by rule.

(7) “Federal dam” means:

(A) a dam owned by the United States; or

(B) a dam subject to a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license or exemption.

(8) “Intake structure” means a dam that is constructed and operated for the primary purposes of minimally impounding water for the measurement and withdrawal of streamflow to ensure use of the withdrawn water for snowmaking, potable water, irrigation, or other purposes approved by the Department.

(9) “Nonfederal dam” means a dam that is not a federal dam.

§ 1081. JURISDICTION OF DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

(a) Powers and duties. Unless otherwise provided, the powers and duties authorized by this chapter shall be exercised by the Department, except that

the Public Utility Commission shall exercise those powers and duties over nonfederal dams and projects that relate to or are incident to the generation of electric energy for public use or as a part of a public utility system.

(b) Transfer of jurisdiction. Jurisdiction over a nonfederal dam is transferred from the Department to the Public Utility Commission ~~whenever the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission grants a license to generate electricity at the dam or whenever~~ when the Public Utility Commission receives an application for a certificate of public good for electricity generation at that dam. Jurisdiction is transferred ~~from the Public Utility Commission to the Department whenever such a federal license~~ when the license or exemption for a federal dam expires or is otherwise lost, ~~whenever such;~~ when a certificate of public good is revoked or otherwise lost; ~~or whenever~~ when the Public Utility Commission denies an application for a certificate of public good.

(c) Transfer of records. Upon transfer of jurisdiction as set forth in subsection (b) of this section and upon written request, the State agency having former jurisdiction over a dam shall transfer copies of all records pertaining to the dam to the agency acquiring jurisdiction.

§ 1082. AUTHORIZATION

(a) No person shall construct, enlarge, raise, lower, remodel, reconstruct, or otherwise alter any nonfederal dam, pond, or impoundment or other structure ~~which~~ that is or will be capable of impounding more than 500,000 cubic feet of water or other liquid after construction or alteration, or remove, breach, or otherwise lessen the capacity of an existing nonfederal dam that is or was capable of impounding more than 500,000 cubic feet within or along the borders of this ~~state~~ State where land in this ~~state~~ State is proposed to be overflowed, or at the outlet of any body of water within this ~~state~~ State, unless authorized by the ~~state~~ State agency having jurisdiction so to do. However, in the matter of flood control projects where cooperation with the federal government is provided for by the provisions of section 1100 of this title, that section shall control.

(b) For the purposes of this chapter, the volume a dam or other structure is capable of impounding is the volume of water or other liquid, including any accumulated sediments, controlled by the structure with the water or liquid level at the top of the lowest nonoverflow part of the structure.

(c) An intake structure in existence on July 1, 2018 that continues to operate in accordance with a valid Department permit or approval that contains requirements for inspection and maintenance subject to section 1105 of this title shall have a rebuttable presumption of compliance with the requirements of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter, provided that no

presumption of compliance shall apply if one or both of the following occur on or after July 1, 2018:

(1) the owner or operator of the intake takes an action that requires authorization under this section; or

(2) the Department issues an order under section 1095 of this title directing reconstruction, repair, removal, breaching, draining, or other action it considers necessary to improve the safety of the dam.

§ 1083. APPLICATION

(a) Any person who proposes to undertake an action subject to regulation pursuant to section 1082 of this title shall apply in writing to the State agency having jurisdiction. The application shall set forth:

(1) the location_; the height, length_, and other dimensions_; and any proposed changes to any existing dam;

(2) the approximate area to be overflowed and the approximate number of_; or any change in the number of cubic feet of water to be impounded;

(3) the plans and specifications to be followed in the construction, remodeling, reconstruction, altering, lowering, raising, removal, breaching, or adding to;

(4) any change in operation and maintenance procedures; and

(5) other information that the state State agency having jurisdiction considers necessary to ~~properly~~ review the application.

(b) The plans and specifications shall be prepared under the supervision of an engineer.

§ 1083a. ~~AGRICULTURAL DAMS~~

~~(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 1082, 1083, 1084, and 1086 of this title, the owners of an agricultural enterprise who propose, as an integral and exclusive part of the enterprise, to construct or alter any dam, pond or impoundment or other structure requiring a permit under section 1083 shall apply to the natural resources conservation district in which his land is located. The natural resources conservation districts created under the provisions of chapter 31 of this title shall be the state agency having jurisdiction and shall review and approve the applications in the same manner as would the department. The districts may request the assistance of the department for any investigatory work necessary for a determination of public good and for any review of plans and specifications as provided in section 1086.~~

~~(b) As used in this section, "agricultural enterprise" means any farm,~~

~~including stock, dairy, poultry, forage crop and truck farms, plantations, ranches and orchards, which does not fall within the definition of “activities not engaged in for a profit” as defined in Section 183 of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations relating thereto. The growing of timber does not in itself constitute farming.~~

~~(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, jurisdiction shall revert to the department when there is a change in use or when there is a change in ownership which affects use. In those cases the department may, on its own motion, hold meetings in order to determine the effect on the public good and public safety. The department may issue an order modifying the terms and conditions of approval.~~

~~(d) The natural resources conservation districts may adopt any rules necessary to administer this chapter. The districts shall adhere to the requirements of chapter 25 of Title 3 in the adoption of those rules.~~

~~(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 7 of Title 3, the attorney general shall counsel the districts in any case where a suit has been instituted against the districts for any decision made under the provisions of this chapter. [Repealed.]~~

§ 1084. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; INVESTIGATION

~~The commissioner of fish and wildlife~~ Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall investigate the potential effects on fish and wildlife habitats of any proposal subject to section 1082 of this title and shall certify the results to the state State agency having jurisdiction prior to any hearing or meeting relating to the determination of public good and public safety.

§ 1085. NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Upon receipt of the application required by section 1082 of this title, the State agency having jurisdiction shall give notice to the legislative body of each municipality in which the dam is ~~allocated~~ located and to all ~~persons~~ interested persons.

(1) The Department shall proceed in accordance with chapter 170 of this title.

(2) For any project subject to its jurisdiction under this chapter, the Public Utilities Utility Commission shall hold a hearing on the application. The purpose of the hearing shall be to determine whether the project serves the public good as defined in section 1086 of this title and provides adequately for the public safety. The hearing shall be held in a municipality in the vicinity of the proposed project and may be consolidated with other hearings, including hearings under 30 V.S.A. § 248 concerning the same project. Notice shall be given at least 10 days before the hearing to interested persons by posting in the

municipal offices of the towns in which the project will be completed and by publishing in a local newspaper.

§ 1086. DETERMINATION OF PUBLIC GOOD; CERTIFICATES

(a) “Public good” means the greatest benefit of the people of the State. In determining whether the public good is served, the State agency having jurisdiction shall give due consideration to, among other things, ~~to~~ the effect the proposed project will have on:

(1) the quantity, kind, and extent of cultivated agricultural land that may be rendered unfit for use by or enhanced by the project, including both the immediate and long-range agricultural land use impacts;

(2) scenic and recreational values;

(3) fish and wildlife;

(4) forests and forest programs;

(5) ~~the need for a minimum water discharge flow rate schedule to protect the natural rate of flow and the water quality of the affected waters;~~
[Repealed.]

(6) the existing uses of the waters by the public for boating, fishing, swimming, and other recreational uses;

(7) the creation of any hazard to navigation, fishing, swimming, or other public uses;

(8) the need for cutting clean and removal of all timber or tree growth from all or part of the flowage area;

(9) the creation of any public benefits;

(10) ~~the classification, if any, of the affected waters under chapter 47 of this title~~ attainment of the Vermont water quality standards;

(11) any applicable State, regional, or municipal plans;

(12) municipal grand lists and revenues;

(13) public safety; and

(14) in the case of the proposed removal of a dam that formerly related to or was incident to the generation of electric energy, but ~~which that~~ was not subject to a memorandum of understanding dated prior to January 1, 2006 relating to its removal, the potential for and value of future power production.

(b) If the State agency having jurisdiction finds that the ~~proposed~~ project proposed under section 1082 of this title will serve the public good, and, in case of any waters designated by the Secretary as outstanding resource waters,

will preserve or enhance the values and activities sought to be protected by designation, the agency shall issue its order approving the application. The order shall include conditions for ~~minimum stream flow to protect fish and instream aquatic life~~ attainment of water quality standards, as determined by the Agency of Natural Resources, and such other conditions as the agency having jurisdiction considers necessary to protect any element of the public good listed in subsection (a) of this section. Otherwise it shall issue its order disapproving the application.

(c) The ~~Agency~~ State agency having jurisdiction shall provide the applicant and interested ~~parties~~ persons with copies of its order.

(d) In the case of a proposed removal of a dam that is under the jurisdiction of the Department and that formerly related to or was incident to the generation of electric energy but that was not subject to a memorandum of understanding dated before January 1, 2006 relating to its removal, the Department shall consult with the Department of Public Service regarding the potential for and value of future power production at the site.

§ 1087. REVIEW OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

~~Upon receipt of an application, the state~~ For any proposal subject to authorization under section 1082, the State agency having jurisdiction shall employ a ~~registered~~ an engineer ~~experienced in the design and investigation of dams~~ to investigate the property, review the plans and specifications, and make additional investigations as ~~it~~ the State agency having jurisdiction considers necessary to ensure that the project adequately provides for the public safety. The engineer shall report his or her findings to the ~~agency~~ State agency having jurisdiction.

§ 1089. EMPLOYMENT OF HYDRAULIC ENGINEER

With the approval of the ~~governor~~ Governor, the ~~state~~ State agency having jurisdiction may employ a ~~competent hydraulic~~ an engineer to investigate the property, review the plans and specifications, and make such additional investigation as ~~such~~ the State agency shall deem necessary, and such engineer shall report to the State agency his or her findings in respect thereto.

§ 1090. CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION

The construction, alteration, or other action authorized in section 1086 of this title shall be supervised by a ~~registered~~ an engineer employed by the applicant. Upon completion of the authorized project, the engineer shall certify to the agency having jurisdiction that the project has been completed in conformance with the approved plans and specifications.

§ 1095. UNSAFE DAM; PETITION; HEARING; EMERGENCY

(a) On receipt of a petition signed by ~~not less~~ no fewer than ten ~~persons in interest~~ interested persons or the legislative body of a municipality, the State agency having jurisdiction shall, or upon its own motion it may, institute investigations by an engineer as described in section 1087 of this title regarding the safety of any existing nonfederal dam or portion of a the dam, of any size. The agency may fix a time and place for hearing and shall give notice in the manner it directs to all ~~parties~~ interested persons. The engineer shall present his or her findings and recommendations at the hearing. After the hearing, if the agency finds that the nonfederal dam or portion of the dam as maintained or operated is unsafe or is a menace to people or property above or below the dam, it shall issue an order directing reconstruction, repair, removal, breaching, draining, or other action it considers necessary to ~~make the dam safe~~ improve the safety of the dam sufficiently to protect life and property as required by the State agency having jurisdiction.

(b) If, upon the expiration of such date as may be ordered, the ~~owner of~~ person owning legal title to such dam or the owner of the land on which the dam is located has not complied with the order directing the reconstruction, repair, breaching, removal, draining, or other action of such unsafe dam, the ~~state~~ State agency having jurisdiction may petition the ~~superior court~~ Superior Court in the county in which the dam is located to enforce its order or exercise the right of eminent domain to acquire ~~such the~~ rights as that may be necessary to effectuate a remedy as the public safety or public good may require. If the order has been appealed, the court may prohibit the exercise of eminent domain by the State agency having jurisdiction pending disposition of the appeal.

(c) If, upon completion of the investigation described in subsection (a) of this section, the ~~state~~ State agency having jurisdiction considers the dam to present an imminent threat to human life or property, it shall take whatever action it considers necessary to protect life and property and subsequently shall conduct the hearing described in subsection (a) of this section.

§ 1097. ~~SURVEY OF EXISTING DAMS; ORDERS FOR PROTECTION OF SALMON~~

~~The Fish and Wildlife Board shall forthwith make a survey of all dams within the state which impound more than three hundred thousand cubic feet of water and determine if the operation of such dams adversely affects the propagation and preservation of salmon, or materially diminishes the amount of flow in portions of a stream likely to be used for such preservation and propagation of salmon. If the Board determines that the operation of an existing dam does adversely affect the propagation and preservation of salmon or materially diminishes the flow of water over portions of stream likely to be used therefor, it shall order such changes in operation for such length of time~~

~~or times as are reasonably necessary in its judgment to fully protect such preservation and propagation of salmon. Any order of the board made under this section shall be based upon facts found and stated. Appeal from an order of the board may be taken in the manner prescribed for appeals from the Public Utility Commission as provided in 30 V.S.A. chapter 1. [Repealed.]~~

~~§ 1098. REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS; APPROPRIATION~~

~~The department may contract for the removal of sandbars, debris, or other obstructions from streams which the department finds that while so obstructed may be a menace in time of flood, or endanger property or life below, or the property of riparian owners. The expense of investigation and removal of the obstruction shall be paid by the state from funds provided for that purpose. [Repealed.]~~

~~* * *~~

~~§ 1105. INSPECTION OF DAMS~~

~~(a) Inspection; schedule. All nonfederal dams in the State shall be inspected according to a schedule adopted by rule by the State agency having jurisdiction over the dam.~~

~~(b) Dam inspection. A nonfederal dam in the State shall be inspected under one or both of the following methods:~~

~~(1) The State agency having jurisdiction shall over a dam may employ an engineer to make periodic inspections of nonfederal dams in the State to determine their condition and the extent, if any, to which they pose a potential possible or actual probable threat to life and property, or.~~

~~(2) The State agency having jurisdiction shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to require an adequate level of inspection by an independent registered engineer experienced in the design and investigation of dams. The agency shall provide the owner with the findings of the inspection and any recommendations.~~

~~(c) Dam safety reports. If a dam inspection report is completed by the State agency having jurisdiction, the agency shall provide the person owning legal title to the dam or the owner of the land on which the dam is located with a copy of the inspection report.~~

~~* * *~~

~~§ 1107. HAZARD POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATIONS~~

~~(a) The State agency having jurisdiction over a nonfederal dam listed in the Vermont Dam Inventory shall assess the hazard potential classification of the dam based on the potential loss of human life, property damage, and economic~~

loss that would occur in the event of the failure of the dam. There shall be four hazard potential classifications: high, significant, low, and minimal.

(b) The State agency having jurisdiction over a nonfederal dam on the Vermont Dam Inventory may assess or reassess the hazard potential classification of the dam at any time.

§ 1108. DAM INVENTORY; REGISTRATION

(a) Dam inventory. The Department of Environmental Conservation shall maintain a current inventory of all known dams in the State of Vermont. The Department of Environmental Conservation shall update and publish the Vermont Dam Inventory annually and shall include information collected in the Inventory as part of the Agency of Natural Resources' Natural Resources Atlas.

(b) Dam registration. If a dam is listed on the Vermont Dam Inventory and is under the jurisdiction of the Department, the person owning legal title to a dam or the person owning the land on which the dam is located shall, upon request of the Department, submit information to the Department regarding the dam, including the condition of the dam, whether and when the dam has been inspected, and any other information that the Department may require to ensure public safety. A person who fails to comply with the request of the Department under this section shall be subject to a civil penalty under chapter 201 of this title.

§ 1109. MARKETABILITY OF TITLE

The failure of the person owning legal title to a dam or the owner of the land on which the dam is located to record a dam registration or a dam inspection report when required under this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter shall not create an encumbrance on record title or an effect on marketability of title for the real estate property or properties on which the dam is located.

§ 1110. RULEMAKING

The Commissioner of Environmental Conservation shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this chapter for dams under the jurisdiction of the Department. The rules shall include:

(1) a standard or regulatory threshold under which a dam is exempt from the registration or inspection requirements of this chapter;

(2) standards for:

(A) the siting, design, construction, reconstruction, enlargement, modification, or alteration of a dam;

- (B) operation and maintenance of a dam;
 - (C) inspection, monitoring, record keeping, and reporting;
 - (D) repair, breach, or removal of a dam;
 - (E) application for authorization under section 1082 of this title; and
 - (F) for the development of an emergency action plan for a dam, including guidance on how to develop an emergency action plan, the content of a plan, and when and how an emergency action plan should be updated;
- (3) criteria for the hazard potential classification of dams in the State;
- (4) a process by which a person owning legal title to a dam or a person owning the land on which the dam is located shall register a dam and record the existence of the dam in the lands records; and
- (5) requirements for the person owning legal title to a dam or the person owning the land on which the dam is located to conduct inspections of the dam; and

§ 1111. NATURAL RESOURCES ATLAS; DAM STATUS

Annually on or before January 1, the Public Utility Commission shall submit to the Department updated inventory information from the previous calendar year for dams under the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission.

Sec. 2. DAM REGISTRATION PROGRAM REPORT

On or before January 1, 2023, the Department of Environmental Conservation shall submit a report to the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Finance. The report shall contain:

- (1) an evaluation of the dam registration program under 10 V.S.A. chapter 43;
- (2) a recommendation on whether to modify the fee structure of the dam registration program;
- (3) a summary of the dams registered under the program, organized by amount of water impounded and hazard potential classification; and
- (4) an evaluation of any other dam safety concerns related to dam registration.

Sec. 3. ADOPTION OF RULES

The Secretary of Natural Resources shall adopt the rules required under 10 V.S.A. § 1110 as follows:

(1) the rules required under 10 V.S.A. § 1110(1) (exemptions), § 1110(3) (emergency action plan), § 1110(4) (hazard potential classification), § 1110(5) (dam registration), and § 1110(6) (dam inspection) shall be adopted on or before July 1, 2020; and

(2) the rules required under 10 V.S.A. § 1110(2) (dam design standards) shall be adopted on or before July 1, 2022.

* * * Groundwater Source Testing * * *

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 1982 is added to read:

§ 1982. TESTING OF GROUNDWATER SOURCES

(a) Definition. As used in this section, “groundwater source” means that portion of a potable water supply that draws water from the ground, including a drilled well, shallow well, driven well point, or spring.

(b) Testing prior to new use. Prior to use of a new groundwater source as a potable water supply, the person who owns or controls the groundwater source shall test the groundwater source for the parameters set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Parameters of testing. A water sample collected under this section shall be analyzed for, at a minimum: arsenic, lead, uranium, gross alpha radiation, total coliform bacteria, total nitrate and nitrite, fluoride, manganese, and any other parameters required by the Agency by rule. The Agency by rule may require testing for a parameter by region or specific geographic area of concern.

(d) Submission of test results. Results of the testing required under subsection (b) shall be submitted, in a form provided by the Department of Health, to the Department of Health and, when required by the Secretary pursuant to a permit, to the Secretary.

(e) Rulemaking. The Secretary, after consultation with the Department of Health, the Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee, private laboratories, and other interested parties, shall adopt by rule requirements regarding:

(1) when, prior to use of a new groundwater source, the test required under subsection (b) of this section shall be conducted;

(2) who shall be authorized to sample the source for the test required under subsections (b) and (c) of this section, provided that the rule shall

include the person who owns or controls the groundwater source and licensed well drillers among those authorized to sample the source;

(3) how a water sample shall be collected in order to comply with the requirements of the analyses to be performed; and

(4) any other requirements necessary to implement this section.

(f) Marketability of title. Noncompliance with the requirements of this section shall not affect the marketability of title or create a defect in title of a property, provided water test results required under this section are forwarded, prior to the conveyance of the property, to the Department of Health and, when required by the Secretary pursuant to a permit, to the Agency.

Sec. 5. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES; GROUNDWATER
SOURCE TESTING; RULEMAKING

The Secretary of Natural Resources shall commence rulemaking under 10 V.S.A. § 1982 on or before July 1, 2018. The Secretary shall adopt rules under 10 V.S.A. § 1982 on or before January 1, 2019.

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 501b is amended to read:

§ 501b. CERTIFICATION OF LABORATORIES

(a) The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner may certify a laboratory that meets the standards currently in effect of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference and is accredited by an approved National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program accrediting authority or its equivalent to perform the testing and monitoring:

(1) required under 10 V.S.A. chapter 56 and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act; and

(2) of water from a potable water supply, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 1972(6).

(b)(1) The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner may by order suspend or revoke a certificate granted under this section, after notice and opportunity to be heard, if the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner finds that the certificate holder has:

(A) submitted materially false or materially inaccurate information; or

(B) violated any material requirement, restriction, or condition of the certificate; or

(C) violated any statute, rule, or order relating to this title.

(2) The order shall set forth what steps, if any, may be taken by the certificate holder to relieve the holder of the suspension or enable the

certificate holder to reapply for certification if a previous certificate has been revoked.

(c) A person may appeal the suspension or revocation of the certificate to the ~~board~~ Board under section 128 of this title.

* * *

(f) A laboratory certified to conduct testing of groundwater sources or water supplies from for use by a potable water supply, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 1972(6), including under the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 1982, shall submit the results of groundwater analyses to the ~~department of health and the agency of natural resources~~ Department of Health in a format required by the ~~department of health~~ Department of Health.

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 1974 is amended to read:

§ 1974. EXEMPTIONS

Notwithstanding any other requirements of this chapter, the following projects and actions are exempt:

* * *

(8) From the permit required for operation of failed supply under subdivision 1973(a)(4) of this title for the use or operation of a failed supply that consists of only one groundwater source that provides water to only one single family residence.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec 5 (groundwater testing rulemaking) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 4 (groundwater source testing) shall take effect on July 1, 2019, except that 10 V.S.A. § 1982(e) shall take effect on passage.

(c) 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 the regulation of dams and the testing of groundwater sources.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for January 17, 2018, pages 130-141 and January 18, 2018, page 149)

H. 639.

An act relating to banning cost-sharing for all breast imaging services.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4100a is amended to read:

§ 4100a. MAMMOGRAMS; COVERAGE REQUIRED

(a) Insurers shall provide coverage for screening by mammography for the presence of occult breast cancer, ~~as provided by this subchapter.~~ In addition, insurers shall provide coverage for screening by ultrasound for a patient for whom the results of a screening mammogram were inconclusive or who has dense breast tissue, or both. Benefits provided shall cover the full cost of the mammography service or ultrasound, as applicable, and shall not be subject to any co-payment, deductible, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing requirement or additional charge.

(b) ~~For females 40 years or older, coverage shall be provided for an annual screening. For females less than 40 years of age, coverage for screening shall be provided upon recommendation of a health care provider. [Repealed.]~~

(c) ~~After January 1, 1994, this~~ This section shall apply only to screening procedures conducted by test facilities accredited by the American College of Radiologists.

(d) As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Insurer” means any insurance company ~~which~~ that provides health insurance as defined in subdivision 3301(a)(2) of this title, nonprofit hospital and medical service corporations, and health maintenance organizations. The term does not apply to coverage for specified ~~disease~~ diseases or other limited benefit coverage.

(2) “Mammography” means the x-ray examination of the breast using equipment dedicated specifically for mammography, including the x-ray tube, filter, compression device, ~~screens, films, and cassettes~~ and digital detector. The term includes breast tomosynthesis.

(3) “Screening” includes the mammography or ultrasound test procedure and a qualified physician’s interpretation of the results of the procedure, including additional views and interpretation as needed.

Sec. 2. MAMMOGRAPHY COVERAGE; DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION

On or before October 1, 2018, the Department of Financial Regulation shall issue a bulletin to provide clarification to health insurers regarding the coding structure for screening mammograms and ultrasounds and for call-back screenings, including clarifying that call-back mammograms and ultrasounds for patients for whom the results of a screening mammogram were inconclusive or who have dense breast tissue, or both, shall be covered without cost-sharing.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) Sec. 1 (8 V.S.A. § 4100a) shall take effect on January 1, 2019 and shall apply to all health insurance plans issued on and after January 1, 2019 on such date as a health insurer offers, issues, or renews the health insurance plan, but in no event later than January 1, 2020.

(b) Sec. 2 (mammography coverage; Department of Financial Regulation) and this section shall take effect on passage.

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

An act relating to eliminating cost-sharing for certain breast imaging services.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 14, 2018, pages 642-643)

H. 684.

An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Office of Professional Regulation * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 123 is amended to read:

§ 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

(a) The Office shall provide administrative, secretarial, financial, investigatory, inspection, and legal services to the boards. The services provided by the Office shall include:

* * *

(9) Standardizing, to the extent feasible and with the advice of the boards, all applications, licenses, and other related forms and procedures, and adopting uniform procedural rules governing the investigatory and disciplinary process for all boards set forth in section 122 of this chapter.

* * *

(11) Assisting the boards in ~~adopting, amending, and repealing~~ developing rules consistent with the principles set forth in 26 V.S.A. chapter 57. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Secretary of State shall serve as the adopting authority for those rules.

* * *

(g) The Office of Professional Regulation shall ~~create a process~~ establish uniform procedures applicable to all of the professions and boards set forth in section 122 of this chapter, providing for:

(1) ~~accepting appropriate recognition of~~ education, training, or service completed by a member of the U.S. Armed Forces toward the requirements of professional licensure ~~or certification; and~~

(2) ~~creating a process for educational institutions under the supervision of a licensing board to award educational credits to a member of the U.S. Armed Forces for courses taken as part of the member's military training or service that meet the standards of the American Council on Education; and~~

(3) ~~expediting the~~ expedited issuance of a professional license to a person who is licensed in good standing in another regulatory jurisdiction and:

(A) ~~who is certified or licensed in another state;~~

(B) ~~whose spouse is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and who has been subject to a military transfer to Vermont; and~~

(C)(B) ~~who left employment to accompany his or her spouse to Vermont.~~

* * *

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

§ 125. FEES

* * *

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees under Title 26:

- (1) Application for registration, \$75.00.
- (2) Application for licensure or certification, \$100.00, except application for:
 - (A) Barbering or cosmetology schools and shops, \$300.00.
 - (B) Funeral directors, embalmers, crematory personnel, removal personnel, funeral establishments, crematory establishments, and limited services establishments, \$70.00.
- (3) Optician trainee registration, \$50.00.
- (4) Biennial renewal, \$200.00, except biennial renewal for:
 - (A) Biennial renewal for Independent clinical social workers and master's social workers, \$150.00.
 - (B) Biennial renewal for occupational Occupational therapists and assistants, \$150.00.
 - (C) Biennial renewal for physical Physical therapists and assistants, \$100.00.
 - (D) Biennial renewal for optician Optician trainees, \$100.00.
 - (E) Barbers, cosmetologists, nail technicians, and estheticians, \$130.00.
 - (F) Schools of barbering or cosmetology, \$300.00.
 - (G) Funeral directors and embalmers, \$280.00.
 - (H) Crematory personnel and removal personnel, \$100.00.
 - (I) Funeral establishments, crematory establishments, and limited services establishments, \$640.00.
- (5) Limited temporary license or work permit, \$50.00.

* * *

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 127 is amended to read:

§ 127. UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE

(a) When the Office receives a complaint of unauthorized practice, the Director shall refer the complaint to ~~the appropriate board for investigation~~ Office investigators and prosecutors.

(b)(1) A person practicing a regulated profession without authority or an employer permitting such practice may, upon the complaint of the Attorney General or a State's Attorney or an attorney assigned by the Office of Professional Regulation, be enjoined ~~there from~~ therefrom by the Superior

Court where the violation occurred or the Washington County Superior Court and may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00.

(2)(A) The Attorney General or an attorney assigned by the Office of Professional Regulation may elect to bring an action seeking only a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00 for practicing or permitting the practice of a regulated profession without authority before the board having regulatory authority over the profession or before an administrative law officer.

(B) Hearings shall be conducted in the same manner as disciplinary hearings.

(3)(A) A civil penalty imposed by a board or administrative law officer under this subsection (b) shall be deposited in the Professional Regulatory Fee Fund established in section 124 of this ~~title~~ chapter for the purpose of providing education and training for board members and advisor appointees.

(B) The Director shall detail in the annual report receipts and expenses from these civil penalties.

* * *

(d)(1) A person whose license has expired for not more than one biennial period may reinstate the license by meeting renewal requirements for the profession, paying the profession's renewal fee, and paying the following nondisciplinary reinstatement penalty:

(A) if reinstatement occurs within 30 days after the expiration date, \$100.00; or

(B) if reinstatement occurs more than 30 days after the expiration date, an amount equal to the renewal fee increased by \$40.00 for every additional month or fraction of a month, provided the total penalty shall not exceed \$1,500.00.

(2) Fees assessed under this subsection shall be deposited into the Regulatory Fee Fund and credited to the appropriate fund for the profession of the reinstating licensee.

(3) A licensee seeking reinstatement may submit a petition for relief from the reinstatement penalty, which a board may grant only upon a finding of exceptional circumstances or extreme hardship to the licensee; provided, however, that fees under this subsection shall not be assessed for any period during which a licensee was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty.

* * *

Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 128 is amended to read:

§ 128. DISCIPLINARY ACTION TO BE REPORTED TO THE OFFICE

* * *

(c) Information provided to the Office under this section shall be confidential unless the ~~board~~ Office decides to treat the report as a complaint, in which case the provisions of section 131 of this title shall apply.

* * *

Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 129 is amended to read:

§ 129. POWERS OF BOARDS; DISCIPLINE PROCESS

(a) In addition to any other provisions of law, a board may exercise the following powers:

(1) ~~Adopt procedural~~ Consistent with other law and State policy, develop administrative rules governing the investigatory and disciplinary process establishing evidence-based standards of practice appropriate to secure and promote the public health, safety, and welfare; open and fair competition within the marketplace for professional services; interstate mobility of professionals; and public confidence in the integrity of professional services.

* * *

Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. § 129a is amended to read:

§ 129a. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) In addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action. Any one of the following items, or any combination of items, whether ~~or not~~ the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

* * *

(25) For providers of clinical care to patients, failing to have in place a plan for responsible disposition of patient health records in the event the licensee should become incapacitated or unexpectedly discontinue practice.

* * *

Sec. 7. 3 V.S.A. § 134 is added to read:

§ 134. LICENSE RENEWAL

(a) A license expires if not renewed biennially on a schedule assigned by the Office, or in the case of a provisional or temporary license, on the date assigned by the Office.

(b) Practice with an expired license is unlawful and exposes a practitioner to the penalties set forth in section 127 of this chapter.

Sec. 8. 3 V.S.A. § 135 is added to read:

§ 135. UNIFORM STANDARD FOR RENEWAL FOLLOWING
EXTENDED ABSENCE

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, when an applicant seeks to renew an expired or lapsed license after fewer than five years of absence from practice, readiness to practice shall be inferred from completion of any continuing education that would have been required if the applicant had maintained continuous licensure or by any less burdensome showing set forth in administrative rules specific to the profession.

(b) When an applicant seeks to renew an expired or lapsed license after five or more years of absence from practice, the Director may, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and as appropriate to ensure the continued competence of the applicant, determine that the applicant has either:

(1) demonstrated retention of required professional competencies and may obtain an unencumbered license; or

(2) not demonstrated retention of all required professional competencies and should be reexamined or required to reapply in like manner to a new applicant.

(c) The Director may consult with a relevant board or advisor appointees for guidance in assessing continued competence under this section.

Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 136 is added to read:

§ 136. UNIFORM CONTINUING EDUCATION EVALUATION

If continuing education is required by law or rule, the Office shall apply uniform standards and processes that apply to all professions regulated by the Office for the assessment and approval or rejection of continuing education offerings, informed by profession-specific policies developed in consultation with relevant boards and advisor appointees.

Sec. 10. LICENSING FOR IMMIGRANTS SETTLING IN VERMONT;
REPORT

The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with the State Refugee Coordinator, shall examine means of reducing unnecessary barriers to professional licensure for qualified immigrants to Vermont from foreign countries. On or before January 15, 2019, the Director shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations a report of his or her findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

* * * Pollution Abatement Facility Operators * * *

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 1263 is amended to read:

§ 1263. DISCHARGE PERMITS

* * *

(d) A discharge permit shall:

* * *

(2) Require proper operation and maintenance of any pollution abatement facility necessary in the treatment or processing of the waste by qualified personnel in accordance with standards established by the Secretary and the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation. The Secretary may require that a pollution abatement facility be operated by persons licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter ~~97~~ 99 and may prescribe the class of license required. The Secretary may require a laboratory quality assurance sample program to ensure qualifications of laboratory analysts.

* * *

* * * Barbers and Cosmetologists * * *

Sec. 12. 26 V.S.A. chapter 6 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 6. BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 271. DEFINITIONS

~~For the purposes of~~ As used in this chapter:

(1) “Barbering” means engaging in the continuing performance, for compensation, of any of the following activities: cutting, shampooing, or styling hair; shaving the face, shaving around the vicinity of the ears and neckline, or trimming facial hair; facials, skin care, or scalp massages, and bleaching, coloring, straightening, ~~permanent-waving~~ or permanent-waving hair, or similar work by any means, with hands or mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliances. Barbering also includes esthetics.

(2) “Board” means the board of barbers and cosmetologists.

(3) “Cosmetology” means engaging in the continuing performance, for compensation, of any of the following activities:

(A) Work on the hair of any person, including dressing, curling, waving, cleansing, cutting, bleaching, coloring, or similar work by any means, with hands or mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliances.

(B) Esthetics.

(C) Manicuring.

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

~~(4) “Disciplinary action” or “disciplinary cases” includes any action taken by the board against a licensee, registrant, or applicant premised upon a finding of wrongdoing or unprofessional conduct by the licensee or applicant. It includes all sanctions of any kind, excluding obtaining injunctions, but including issuing warnings, other similar sanctions and ordering restitution.~~

~~(5) “Esthetics” means massaging, cleansing, stimulating, manipulating, beautifying, or otherwise working on the scalp, face, or neck, by using cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or creams. “Esthetics” does not include the sale or application of cosmetics to customers in retail stores or customers’ homes.~~

~~(6) “Financial interest” means being:~~

~~(A) a licensed barber;~~

~~(B) a licensed cosmetologist; or~~

~~(C) a person who has invested anything of value in a business that provides barbering or cosmetology services.~~

~~(7)~~(5) “Manicuring” or “nail technician practice” means the nonmedical treatment of a person’s fingernails or toenails or the skin in the vicinity of the nails, and includes the use of cosmetic preparations or appliances.

~~(8)~~(6) “School of barbering or cosmetology” means a facility or facilities regularly used to train or instruct persons in the practice of barbering or cosmetology.

~~(9)~~(7) “Shop” means a facility or facilities regularly used to offer or provide barbering or cosmetology.

§ 272. PROHIBITIONS; OFFENSES

(a) ~~No~~ A person shall not practice or attempt to practice barbering or cosmetology or use in connection with the person’s name any letters, words, title, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is a barber or cosmetologist unless the person is licensed in accordance with this chapter.

(b) ~~No~~ A person who owns or controls a shop or school of barbering or cosmetology shall not permit the practice of barbering or cosmetology unless the shop or school is registered in accordance with this chapter.

(c) A person who violates a provision of this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127.

§ 273. EXEMPTIONS

The provisions of this chapter regulating barbers and cosmetologists shall not:

(1) affect or prevent the practice of barbering or cosmetology by a student at a school recognized by the ~~board~~ Director;

* * *

(3) prohibit a licensee from providing barbering or cosmetology services outside a licensed shop so long as those services are limited to only:

(A) patients or residents within a hospital, nursing home, community care home, or any similar facility;

(B) persons who are homebound, disabled, or in a hospice or similar program, or to deceased persons in a funeral home;

(C) persons as part of a special ~~occasion~~ event ~~so long as these services are limited to hair styling and makeup and, provided~~ the sanitation standards expected of licensees in licensed shops are followed;

* * *

(5) affect or prevent the practice of barbering or cosmetology outside a registered shop or school by licensees in accordance with rules adopted by the ~~board~~ Director;

(6) affect or prevent the practice of barbering or cosmetology within the confines of a State correctional facility by a person incarcerated therein, who has completed training acceptable to the Commissioner of Corrections; or

(7) affect or prevent the practice of natural hair braiding or styling, provided such practice does not involve cutting; the application of chemicals, dyes, or heat; or other changes to the structure of hair.

§ 274. ~~PENALTY~~

~~A person who violates any provision of section 272 of this title shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127(e). [Repealed.]~~

Subchapter 2. Administration

§ 275. ~~CREATION OF BOARD~~

~~(a) A board of barbers and cosmetologists is created, consisting of five members. Members shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004. Members shall be residents of this state.~~

~~(b) One member of the board shall be a member of the public who has no financial interest in barbering or cosmetology other than as a consumer or~~

~~possible consumer of its services. He or she shall have no financial interest personally or through a spouse, parent, child, brother or sister.~~

~~(c) Two members of the board shall be licensed cosmetologists.~~

~~(d) One member of the board shall be a licensed barber.~~

~~(e) The remaining member shall be a person licensed under this chapter or a public member.~~

~~(f) A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for transacting business, and all action shall be taken upon a majority vote of the members present and voting. [Repealed.]~~

§ 276. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD DIRECTOR

(a) The board Director shall:

(1) ~~Adopt~~ adopt rules that:

(A) ~~Prescribe~~ prescribe sanitary and safety standards for shops, schools, and other facilities used for the practice of barbering and cosmetology;

(B) ~~Prescribe~~ prescribe safe and sanitary practices for the performance of activities related to the practice of barbering and cosmetology;

(C) ~~Establish~~ establish standards for apprenticeships, courses, and examinations to be completed by an applicant for licensure under this chapter;

(D) establish qualifications for licensure under this chapter as:

(i) a barber, provided mandated formal training shall be 750 hours;

(ii) a cosmetologist, provided mandated formal training shall be 1,000 hours;

(iii) an esthetician, provided mandated formal training shall be 500 hours; and

(iv) a nail technician, provided mandated formal training shall be 200 hours; and

(E)(i) establish criteria for apprenticeships that would enable a person seeking licensure under this chapter to train under an appropriately qualified Vermont licensee in order to attain licensure without mandated formal training; and

(ii) limit the duration of a required apprenticeship to not more than 150 percent of the duration of the corresponding formal training.

(b)(1) The ~~board~~ Director may inspect shops and schools and other places used for the practice of barbering and cosmetology.

(2) ~~No~~ A fee shall not be charged for initial inspections under this subsection; however, if the ~~board~~ Director determines that it is necessary to inspect the same premises in the same ownership more than once in any two-year period, the ~~board~~ Director shall charge a reinspection fee.

(3) The ~~board~~ Director may waive all or a part of the reinspection fee in accordance with criteria established by rule.

§ 276a. ADVISOR APPOINTEES

(a)(1) The Secretary of State shall appoint one barber, one cosmetologist, one esthetician, and one nail technician for five-year staggered terms to serve at the Secretary's pleasure as advisors in matters relating to barbering and cosmetology. At least one of the initial appointments shall be for less than a five-year term.

(2) An appointee shall have not less than three years' experience as a barber or cosmetologist immediately preceding appointment; shall be licensed as a barber or cosmetologist in Vermont; and shall be actively engaged in the practice of barbering or cosmetology in this State during incumbency.

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

Subchapter 3. Licenses

§ 277. QUALIFICATIONS; BARBER

~~(a) A person shall be eligible for licensure as a barber if the person is at least 18 years of age, has a high school or general educational development diploma, and has satisfactorily completed an accredited barber school program; or has satisfactorily completed an apprenticeship of not less than 12 months and not more than 36 months consisting of a minimum of 2,000 hours and a maximum of 3,000 hours in a manner prescribed by the board in addition to areas of study, prescribed by the board, by rule, has a high school or general educational development diploma, and has passed the examination described in section 283 of this title.~~

~~(b) The board shall issue a limited barbering license, with an endorsement for cutting, shampooing, and styling hair and for mustache and beard trimming, to any person incarcerated in a state correctional facility who completes, while under the direct personal supervision of a barber licensed by the board, a course of training of not less than 10 hours in cutting, shampooing, and styling hair and trimming of mustache and beard. Such limited license shall be valid only within a state correctional facility. No fees~~

shall be charged for a limited license issued under this subsection. [Repealed.]

§ 278. QUALIFICATIONS; COSMETOLOGIST

A person shall be eligible for licensure as a cosmetologist if the person is at least 18 years of age, has a high school or general educational development diploma, and has satisfactorily completed the following:

(1) a course of study of at least 1,500 hours at a school of cosmetology approved by an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education or approved by the board under standards that the board has adopted by rule and passage of the examination described in section 283 of this title; or

(2) an apprenticeship of not less than 12 months and not more than 36 months consisting of not less than 2,000 hours and a maximum of 3,000 hours in a manner prescribed by the board in addition to courses, as prescribed by the board by rule, and passage of the examination described in section 283 of this title. [Repealed.]

§ 279. QUALIFICATIONS; ESTHETICIAN

A person shall be eligible for licensure as an esthetician if the person is at least 18 years of age, has a high school or general educational development diploma, and has satisfactorily completed the following:

(1) a course of study in esthetics of at least 600 hours at a school of cosmetology approved by an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education or approved by the board under standards that the board has adopted by rule; or

(2) an apprenticeship of not less than 12 months and not more than 18 months, consisting of a minimum of 800 hours and a maximum of 1,200 hours, as prescribed by the board by rule; and has passed the examination described in section 283 of this title. [Repealed.]

§ 280. QUALIFICATIONS; NAIL TECHNICIAN

A person shall be eligible for licensure as a nail technician if the person is at least 18 years of age, has a high school or general educational development diploma, and has satisfactorily completed:

(1) a course of study in manicuring of at least 400 hours at a school of cosmetology approved by an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education or approved by the board under standards that the board has adopted by rule; or

(2) an apprenticeship of not less than six months and not more than 12 months consisting of a minimum of 600 hours and a maximum of 900

hours, as prescribed by the board by rule, and has passed the examination described in section 283 of this title. [Repealed.]

§ 280a. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE

An applicant for licensure as a barber, cosmetologist, esthetician, or nail technician shall meet the qualifications for licensure established by the Director under the provisions of subchapter 2 of this chapter.

§ 281. POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY; CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

(a) ~~No~~ A school of barbering or cosmetology shall not be granted a certificate of approval unless the school:

* * *

(4) Requires a school term of training:

~~(A) in the case of a school of barbering, of not less than 1,000 hours for a complete course that includes all or the majority of the practices of barbering, and includes practical demonstrations and theoretical studies in sanitation, sterilization, the use of antiseptics, and electrical appliances, consistent with the practical and theoretical requirements applicable to barbering or any practice of barbering; and~~

~~(B) in the case of a school of cosmetology, requires a school term of training of not less than 1,500 hours for a complete course that includes all or the majority of the practices of cosmetology, and includes practical demonstrations and theoretical studies in sanitation, sterilization, the use of antiseptics, cosmetics, and electrical appliances, consistent with the practical and theoretical requirements applicable to cosmetology or any practice of cosmetology consistent with formal training requirements established by rule, which shall include practical demonstrations and theoretical studies in sanitation, sterilization, the use of antiseptics, and the use of appliances, devices, treatments, and preparations relevant to the field of licensure.~~

(b) Regional vocational centers may offer courses of instruction in barbering or cosmetology without a certificate of approval from the ~~Board Director~~, and State correctional facilities may offer courses of instruction in barbering without a certificate of approval from the ~~Board Director~~; however, ~~credits~~ hours for licensing ~~will~~ shall only be given for courses that meet the ~~Board's Director's~~ standards for courses offered in postsecondary schools of barbering or cosmetology certified by the ~~Board Director~~.

* * *

§ 282. SHOP; LICENSE

(a) ~~No~~ A shop shall not be granted a license unless the shop complies with the rules of the ~~board~~ Director and has a designated licensee responsible for overall cleanliness, sanitation, and safety of the shop.

(b) The practices of barbering and cosmetology shall be permitted only in shops licensed by the ~~board~~ Director, except as provided in sections 273 and 281 of this ~~title~~ chapter and the rules of the ~~board~~ Director.

§ 283. EXAMINATION

(a) An applicant who is otherwise eligible for licensure and has paid the required fees shall be examined.

(b)(1) The examination for a license shall include both practical demonstrations and written or oral tests in the area of practices for which a license is applied and other related studies or subjects as the ~~board~~ Director may determine necessary.

(2) The examination shall not be confined to any specific system or method and shall be consistent with a prescribed curriculum as provided by this chapter.

(c) The ~~board~~ Director may limit, by rule, the number of times a person may take an examination.

§ 284. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE

(a) The ~~board~~ Director shall issue a license to an applicant who has passed the examination as determined by the ~~board~~ Director, has paid the required fee, and has completed all the requirements for the particular license.

(b) The ~~board~~ Director shall issue a license to the person who owns or controls a shop or school of barbering or cosmetology who has paid the required fee and is in compliance with the rules of the ~~board~~ Director and the provisions of this chapter.

(c) The license shall be conspicuously displayed for the customer in the licensee's principal office, place of business, or place of employment.

§ 285. LICENSES FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Without requiring an examination, the ~~board~~ Director shall issue an appropriate license to a person who is licensed or certified in good standing under the laws of another jurisdiction with requirements ~~that the board considers to be:~~

(1) substantially equal to those of this state State; or

(2) materially less rigorous than those of this State, if the person has had 1,500 documented hours of practice in not less than one year.

§ 286. RENEWAL AND REINSTATEMENT

~~The holder of a license issued by the board pursuant to this chapter may biennially renew the license upon payment of the renewal fee. A license that has not been renewed by the renewal date shall expire. Within three years of the date of expiration, the holder of the expired license may apply for reinstatement upon the payment of the renewal fee and a renewal penalty. If a license is not reinstated within three years of expiration, the applicant shall meet the requirements of section 284 or 285 of this title before the license may be reinstated. [Repealed.]~~

§ 287. FEES

~~Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:~~

~~(1) Application:~~

(A) Barber	\$110.00
(B) Cosmetologist	\$110.00
(C) Nail technician	\$110.00
(D) Esthetician	\$110.00
(E) Shop	\$330.00
(F) School	\$330.00

~~(2) Biennial renewal:~~

(A) Barber	\$130.00
(B) Cosmetologist	\$130.00
(C) Nail technician	\$130.00
(D) Esthetician	\$130.00
(E) Shop	\$225.00
(F) School	\$330.00

~~(3) Reinspection \$100.00~~

~~[Repealed.]~~

§ 288. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

~~The conduct listed in this section and in 3 V.S.A. § 129a constitutes unprofessional conduct when committed by a licensee. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action:~~

- ~~(1) Practicing or offering to practice beyond the scope permitted by law.~~
- ~~(2) Willfully materially misrepresenting the qualifications or experience of an applicant in the practice of the occupation, whether by commission or omission.~~
- ~~(3) Failing to adequately supervise employees who are engaged in any of the practices of barbering or cosmetology and nail technician practice.~~
- ~~(4) Harassing, intimidating, or abusing a client or customer.~~
- ~~(5) Performing treatments or providing services which a licensee is not qualified to perform or which are beyond the licensee's education, training, capabilities, experience, or scope of practice. [Repealed.]~~

§ 289. ~~LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT~~

~~The board may issue a license to an individual who is currently licensed or certified in another jurisdiction in good standing, provided the individual has been in active practice for at least three years immediately preceding application or has 2,000 documented hours of practice in not less than one year. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 13. ~~DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS; RULEMAKING~~

Prior to the effective date of Sec. 12 of this act, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall adopt rules in accordance with the amendments to 26 V.S.A. chapter 6 (barbers and cosmetologists) contained in that section.

* * * Dentistry * * *

Sec. 14. 26 V.S.A. chapter 12 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 12. DENTISTS, DENTAL THERAPISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS, AND DENTAL ASSISTANTS

* * *

Subchapter 3. Dentists

§ 601. LICENSE BY EXAMINATION

To be eligible for licensure as a dentist, an applicant shall:

- (1) have attained the age of majority;
- (2) be a graduate of:

(A) a dental college accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; or

(B) a program of foreign dental training and a postgraduate program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association that is acceptable to the Board; and

(3) meet the certificate, examination, and training requirements established by the ~~board~~ Board by rule.

* * *

Subchapter 6. Renewals, Continuing Education, and Fees

* * *

§ 663. ~~LAPSED LICENSES OR REGISTRATIONS~~

~~(a) Failure to renew a license by the renewal date shall result in a lapsed license subject to late renewal penalties pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 125(a)(1).~~

~~(b) A person whose license or registration has lapsed may not practice and may be subject to disciplinary action.~~

~~(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a person shall not be required to pay renewal fees or late renewal penalties for years spent on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. A person who returns from active duty shall be required to pay only the most current biennial renewal fee. [Repealed.]~~

* * * Funeral Services * * *

Sec. 15. 26 V.S.A. chapter 21 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 21. FUNERAL ~~DIRECTORS~~ SERVICES

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 1211. DEFINITIONS

(a) ~~The following words as As used in this chapter, unless a contrary meaning is required by the context, shall have the following meanings:~~

(1) “Crematory establishment” means a business registered with the ~~Board~~ Office conducted at a specific street address or location devoted to the disposition of dead human bodies by means of cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or any other type of human reduction acceptable to the ~~Board of Funeral Service Director~~ as established by ~~Board~~ the Director by rule.

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

(3) “Funeral director” means a licensed person who is the owner, co-owner, employee, or manager of a licensed funeral establishment and who, for compensation, engages in the practice of funeral service.

~~(3)~~(4) “Funeral establishment” means a business registered with the ~~Board~~ Office conducted at a specific street address or location devoted to the practice of funeral service, and includes a limited services establishment.

(5) “Office” means the Office of Professional Regulation.

~~(4)~~(6) “Practice of funeral service” means arranging, directing, or providing for the care, preparation, or disposition of dead human bodies for a fee or other compensation. This includes:

* * *

~~(5)~~(7) “Removal” means the removal of dead human bodies from places of death, hospitals, institutions, or other locations, for a fee or other compensation.

* * *

§ 1212. ~~BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE; RULES ADVISOR~~
APPOINTEES; DIRECTOR DUTIES; RULES

~~(a)~~(1) ~~The board of funeral service shall consist of five members appointed by the governor, three of whom shall be licensed funeral directors under this chapter with five years of experience as a funeral director, and two members shall represent the public. At least two of the funeral directors shall also be licensed embalmers. The public members shall not have a direct or indirect financial interest in the funeral business. Each member shall be sworn before performing his or her duties~~ Secretary of State shall appoint four persons for five-year staggered terms to serve at the Secretary’s pleasure as advisors in matters relating to funeral service. Three of the initial appointments shall be for four-, three-, and two-year terms. Appointees shall include three licensed funeral directors, one of whom is a licensed embalmer and one of whom has training or experience in the operation of crematoria. One appointee shall be a public member.

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

(b) ~~The board~~ Director shall:

(1) adopt rules establishing requirements for facilities used for embalming and preparation of dead human bodies, including the use of universal precautions. Rules adopted under this subdivision shall be submitted to the ~~commissioner of health~~ Commissioner of Health before the proposed rule is filed with the ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25;

(2) adopt rules governing professional standards, standards for disclosure of prices, and a description of the goods and services that will be

provided for those prices not inconsistent with Federal Trade Commission regulations regarding funeral industry practices and unfair or deceptive business practices;

(3) provide general information to applicants for licensure;

(4) explain appeal procedures to licensees and applicants and complaint procedures to the public;

(5) issue licenses to qualified applicants under this chapter; and

(6) adopt rules regarding:

(A) minimum standards for crematory establishments, including standards for permits and documentation, body handling, containers, infectious diseases, pacemakers, body storage, sanitation, equipment, and maintenance, dealing with the public and other measures necessary to protect the public; and

(B) the transaction of ~~its~~ business as the ~~board~~ Director deems necessary;

~~(7) conduct at least one examination each year if there are candidates for examination;~~

~~(8) hold meetings as frequently as the efficient discharge of its duties requires. A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.~~

* * *

§ 1213. INSPECTION OF PREMISES

(a) The ~~board of funeral service~~ Director or ~~its~~ his or her designee may, at any reasonable time, inspect funeral and crematory establishments.

(b) Each funeral and crematory establishment shall be inspected at least once every two years. Copies of the inspector's report of inspections of establishments shall be provided to the ~~board~~ Director.

* * *

§ 1215. PENALTIES; JURISDICTION OF OFFENSES

(a) A person who engages in the practice of funeral services without a license shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127~~(e)~~.

(b) ~~No~~ A person shall not embalm or introduce any fluid into a dead human body unless the person is a licensed embalmer or is an apprentice and performs under the direction of an embalmer in his or her presence. A person who is not duly licensed as provided in this chapter ~~may~~ shall not practice or hold himself or herself out to the public as a practicing embalmer ~~and;~~ a person who does so shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127~~(e)~~.

* * *

Subchapter 2. Licenses

§ 1251. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

(a) ~~No~~ A person, partnership, corporation, association, or other organization ~~may~~ shall not open or maintain a funeral establishment unless the establishment is licensed by the ~~board of funeral service~~ Office to conduct the business and unless the owner, a co-owner, or manager is a licensed funeral director.

(b) ~~No~~ A person, partnership, corporation, association, or other organization ~~may~~ shall not open or maintain a crematory establishment unless the establishment is licensed by the ~~board of funeral service~~ Office.

(c) ~~No~~ A person ~~may~~ shall not hold himself or herself out as performing the duties of a funeral director unless licensed by the ~~board of funeral service~~ Office.

(d) Except as otherwise permitted by law, ~~no~~ a person employed by a funeral or crematory establishment ~~may~~ shall not perform a removal unless registered with the ~~board~~ Office.

§ 1252. APPLICATION; QUALIFICATIONS

(a) Funeral director.

(1) Any person holding a high school certificate or its equivalent shall be entitled to take an examination as a funeral director provided that he or she has:

(A) graduated from a school of funeral service accredited or approved by the American Board of Funeral Service Education in a course of instruction of not less than two academic years, or graduated from a school of funeral service accredited or approved by the American Board of Funeral Service Education in a course of instruction of not less than one academic year or its equivalent as determined by the ~~Board~~ Director, with 30 additional credit hours in subjects approved by the ~~Board~~ Director and obtained in a college or university approved by the ~~Board~~ Director;

(B) completed a traineeship of 12 months of full-time employment or its equivalent under the direct supervision of a person duly licensed for the practice of funeral service within a licensed funeral establishment not connected with a school. The duration of the traineeship and the work performed shall be verified by affidavit as required by the ~~Board~~ Director; and

(C) submitted a written application and the required application fee.

(2) The ~~Board~~ Director may waive the educational and traineeship requirements for examination as a funeral director, provided the applicant possesses a valid license from another state with licensure requirements substantially similar to those required by this chapter.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection (a), the ~~Board~~ Director may by rule prescribe an alternative pathway to licensure for individuals who have not attended a school of funeral service but who have demonstrated through an approved program of apprenticeship and study the skills deemed necessary by the ~~Board~~ Director to ensure competence as a funeral director.

(b) Embalmer.

(1) Any person holding a high school certificate or its equivalent shall be entitled to take an examination in embalming provided that he or she has:

(A) graduated from a school of funeral service accredited or approved by the American Board of Funeral Service Education in a course of instruction of not less than two academic years, or graduated from a school of funeral service accredited or approved by the American Board of Funeral Service Education in a course of instruction of not less than one academic year or its equivalent as determined by the ~~Board~~ Director, with 30 additional credit hours in subjects approved by the ~~Board~~ Director and obtained in a college or university approved by the ~~Board~~ Director;

(B) served a traineeship of 12 months of full-time employment or its equivalent under the direct supervision of a person duly licensed for the practice of funeral service, within a licensed funeral establishment not connected with a school. The duration of the traineeship and the work performed shall be verified by affidavit as required by the ~~Board~~ Director; and

(C) submitted a written application and the required application fee.

(2) The ~~Board~~ Director may waive the educational and traineeship requirements for examination as an embalmer, provided the applicant possesses a valid license from another state with licensure requirements substantially similar to those required by this chapter.

(c) Funeral establishment.

(1) A person, partnership, association, or other organization desiring to operate a funeral establishment, shall apply, in writing, to the ~~Board of Funeral Service~~ Director for a license. The applicant, if a corporation, partnership, association, or other organization, must have a manager or co-owner who is a licensed funeral director.

(2) The application for a license shall be sworn to by the individual, a partner, or a duly authorized officer of a corporation, and shall be on the form prescribed and furnished by the ~~Board of Funeral Service Director~~, and the applicant shall furnish such information as required by the Director by rule or regulation of the Board. The application shall be accompanied by a licensing fee.

(d) Crematory establishment.

(1) A person, partnership, corporation, association, or other organization desiring to operate a crematory establishment shall apply, in writing, to the ~~Board of Funeral Service Director~~ for a license. The applicant, if a partnership, corporation, association, or other organization, must have a designated manager or co-owner who is responsible for the operation of the establishment and who is registered with the ~~Board Office~~ under subsection (e) of this section.

(2) The application for a license shall be sworn to by the individual, or a partner or a duly authorized officer of a corporation, shall be on the form prescribed and furnished by the ~~Board Director~~, and the applicant shall furnish information, as required by rule. The application shall be accompanied by a licensing fee. However, the applicant shall not be required to pay the fee under this subsection if the applicant pays the fee under subsection (b) of this section.

(e) Crematory personnel.

(1) Any person who desires to engage in direct handling, processing, identification, or cremation of dead human remains within a licensed crematory establishment shall register with the ~~Board of Funeral Service Office~~ and pay the fee established in subsection 1256(d) of this chapter. The applicant shall have attained the age of majority and be directly employed by a licensed crematory establishment.

(2) The ~~Board Director~~ may prescribe, by rule, the forms for applicants, which may include proof of completion of up to three hours of education and training in programs approved by the ~~Board Director~~.

(f) Removal personnel.

(1) Any person who desires to engage in removals shall register with the ~~Board of Funeral Service Office~~ and pay the fee established in subsection 1256(d) of this chapter. The applicant shall have attained the age of majority and be directly employed by a licensed funeral or crematory establishment, or the University of Vermont for removals related to the University's anatomical gift program.

(2) The ~~Board~~ Director may prescribe, by rule, the forms for applicants, which may include proof of completion of up to three hours of education and training in infectious diseases in programs approved by the ~~Board~~ Director.

(3) Registrants under this ~~section~~ subsection are authorized to perform removals only, as defined by this chapter. Unregistered personnel may accompany registered personnel to assist in removals so long as they have been instructed in handling and precautionary procedures prior to the call.

(g) Limited services establishment.

(1) The ~~Board of Funeral Service~~ Director may adopt rules for the issuance of limited service establishment licenses in accordance with this chapter. Limited service establishment licensees are authorized to perform only disposition services without arranging, directing, or performing embalming, public viewings, gatherings, memorials, funerals, or related ceremonies. Disposition services under this subsection include direct cremation, direct alkaline hydrolysis, immediate burial, or direct green burial.

(2) Limited services shall be overseen by a funeral director licensed under this chapter who is employed by the limited service establishment.

(3) Each limited service arrangement shall include a mandatory written disclosure providing notice to the purchaser that limited services do not include embalming, public viewings, gatherings, memorials, funerals, or related ceremonies.

(4) A funeral director associated with a funeral establishment licensed under subsection (c) of this section may provide limited services so long as the mandatory disclosure described under subdivision (3) of this subsection is provided to the purchaser.

§ 1253. EXAMINATIONS

An applicant for a funeral director's or embalmer's license shall be examined by as the board Director may require by rule. ~~The examinations shall be in writing and upon forms approved by the board containing questions on subjects as the board by rule may require to determine the qualifications of the applicant.~~

§ 1254. ISSUANCE OR DENIAL OF LICENSE

If, upon review, it is found that the applicant possesses sufficient skill and knowledge of the business and has met the application and qualification requirements set forth in this chapter, the ~~board~~ Director shall issue to him or her a license to engage in the business of funeral director, embalmer, funeral establishment, crematory establishment, or removal personnel. ~~All applications shall be granted or denied within 90 days from the making thereof.~~

~~§ 1255. RECORD OF LICENSES AND APPLICATIONS~~

~~The board shall keep a record of licenses granted and applications made for license, which shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times. [Repealed.]~~

§ 1256. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OR LICENSE

~~(a)(1) One month before renewal is required, the Board or the Office of Professional Regulation shall notify, by mail, every licensee of the date on which his or her or its license will expire.~~

~~(2) Biennially, every licensee shall renew his or her or its registration or license by paying the required fee.~~

(b) Upon request of the Board of Health or a person authorized to issue burial or removal permits, a licensee shall show proof of current licensure.

~~(c) If a licensee fails to pay the renewal fee by the required date, the license shall lapse. Thereafter, the license may be reinstated only upon application to the Board or the Office of Professional Regulation and upon payment of the renewal fee and a reinstatement fee. [Repealed.]~~

(d) Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application for license	\$ 70.00
(2) Biennial renewal of license	
(A) Funeral director	\$ 350.00
(B) Embalmer	\$ 350.00
(C) Funeral establishment	\$ 800.00
(D) Crematory establishment	\$ 800.00
(E) Crematory personnel	\$ 125.00
(F) Removal personnel	\$125.00
(G) Limited services establishment license	\$800.00

~~(e)(1) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an applicant for renewal as a funeral director or embalmer shall have satisfactorily completed continuing education as required by the Board Director.~~

(2) For purposes of this subsection, the Board Director shall require, by rule, not less than six nor more than ten hours of approved continuing education as a condition of renewal and may require up to three hours of

continuing education for removal personnel in the subject area of universal precautions and infectious diseases.

§ 1257. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) A licensee shall not engage in unprofessional conduct.

(b) Unprofessional conduct means the following conduct and conduct set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 129a:

(1) Using dishonest or misleading advertising.

(2) Failure to make available, upon request of a person who had received services, copies of documents in the possession or under the control of the practitioner.

(3) Failure to comply with rules adopted by the ~~board~~ Director, the ~~office of professional regulation~~ Office, or by the Federal Trade Commission relating to funeral goods and services.

(4) For funeral directors, failure to make available at the licensee's place of business, by color picture or display, the three least expensive caskets, as available. For the purposes of this section and related administrative rules, the three least expensive caskets shall include one cloth, one metal, and one wood casket.

~~(c) After hearing and upon a finding of unprofessional conduct, the board may take disciplinary action against a licensee.~~

~~(d) For purposes of this section, "disciplinary action" includes any action taken by the board against a licensee premised on a finding of unprofessional conduct. Disciplinary action includes all appropriate remedies, including denial of renewal of a license, suspension, revocation, limiting, or conditioning of the license, issuing reprimands or warnings, and adopting consent orders.~~

~~(e) Disciplinary proceedings against a licensed crematory establishment or its personnel, when that crematory is independent from a licensed funeral establishment, may, upon petition of the licensee, be heard by an administrative law officer appointed by the director of the office of professional regulation.~~

* * *

Subchapter 3. Prepaid Funeral Arrangements

§ 1271. PREPAID ARRANGEMENTS

A funeral establishment that sells services or merchandise that is not to be delivered or provided within 30 days of sale has entered into a prepaid funeral arrangement and shall comply with the requirements of this subchapter.

§ 1272. RULES; PREPAID FUNERAL FUNDS

The ~~board, with the assistance of the office of professional regulation,~~ Director shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this subchapter to ~~insure~~ ensure the proper handling of all funds paid pursuant to a prepaid funeral agreement and to protect consumers in the event of default. The rules shall include provisions relating to the following:

* * *

(5) Information to be provided the escrow agent by the funeral director and information regarding the escrow account or the prepaid funeral that shall be made available to the buyer on request and annually in a format as determined by the ~~board~~ Director.

* * *

(8) Other factors determined by the ~~board~~ Director to be reasonably necessary to ~~insure~~ ensure the security of the funds paid into an escrow account as part of a prepaid funeral arrangement.

(9) Establishment of a funeral services trust account.

(A) For purposes of funding the funeral services trust account, the ~~board or the office of professional regulation~~ Office shall assess each funeral or crematory establishment a per funeral, burial, or disposition fee of \$6.00.

(B) The account shall be administered by the ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State and shall be used for the sole purpose of protecting prepaid funeral contract holders in the event a funeral establishment defaults on its obligations under the contract.

(C) The account shall consist of all fees collected under this subdivision (9) and any assessments authorized by the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly. The principal and interest remaining in the account at the close of any fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain in the account for use in succeeding fiscal years.

(D) Notwithstanding the ~~foregoing~~ provisions of this subdivision (9) to the contrary, if the fund balance at the beginning of a fiscal year is at least \$200,000.00, no fees shall be imposed during that fiscal year.

(E) Payments on consumer claims from the fund shall be made on warrants by the ~~commissioner of finance and management~~ Commissioner of Finance and Management, at the direction of the ~~board of funeral services~~ Director.

(F) When an investigation reveals financial discrepancies within a licensed establishment, the ~~director~~ Director may order an audit to determine

the existence of possible claims on the funeral services trust account. In cases where both a funeral and crematory establishment are involved in a disposition, the party receiving the burial permit shall be responsible for the disposition fee.

* * *

§ 1273. WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

(a) Each prepaid funeral arrangement shall be expressed in a written contract. The ~~board~~ Director shall adopt rules for standard provisions to be included in all pre-need trust forms and may adopt a standard form ~~which that~~ every funeral director accepting prepaid funeral arrangements shall use. Those provisions shall include:

(1) Disclosure of whether the contract is revocable or irrevocable.

(2) A declaration of the person who will most likely be responsible for the funeral and who is to be notified of the prepaid funeral.

(3) Any other provision determined by the ~~board~~ Director to be reasonably necessary to ~~insure~~ ensure full disclosure to the buyer of all prepaid funeral arrangements as required under this chapter.

* * *

Sec. 16. REPEAL

26 V.S.A. § 1256(d) (funeral services; application and renewal fees) shall be repealed on June 1, 2023.

Sec. 17. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION; FUNERAL SERVICE RULES

On the effective date of Sec. 15 of this act (amending 26 V.S.A. chapter 21 (funeral services)), the rules of the Board of Funeral Service shall constitute the rules of the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation for the funeral service professions and establishments.

* * * Nursing * * *

Sec. 18. 26 V.S.A. chapter 28 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 28. NURSING

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

* * *

§ 1573. VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING

(a) There is hereby created a the Vermont State Board of Nursing consisting of six registered nurses, including at least two licensed as advanced practice registered nurses; two practical nurses; one nursing assistant; and

two public members. Board members shall be appointed by the Governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004.

* * *

~~(d) Six members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.~~

§ 1579. ISSUANCE AND DURATION OF LICENSES

~~Licenses and endorsements shall be renewed every two years on a schedule determined by the Office of Professional Regulation. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

§ 1584. PROHIBITIONS; OFFENSES

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

* * *

~~(8) [Deleted.]~~

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

~~(c) [Deleted.]~~

* * *

Subchapter 2. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

* * *

§ 1612. PRACTICE GUIDELINES

~~(a) APRN licensees who intend to or are engaged in clinical practice as an APRN shall submit for review individual practice guidelines and receive Board approval of the practice guidelines. Practice guidelines shall reflect current standards of advanced nursing practice specific to the APRN's role, population focus, and specialty.~~

~~(b) Licensees shall submit for review individual practice guidelines and receive Board approval of the practice guidelines:~~

~~(1) prior to initial employment;~~

~~(2) if employed or practicing as an APRN, upon application for renewal of an APRN's registered nurse license; and~~

~~(3) prior to a change in the APRN's employment or clinical role, population focus, or specialty. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

§ 1614. APRN RENEWAL

An APRN license renewal application shall include:

- (1) documentation of completion of the APRN practice requirement;
- (2) possession of a current certification by a national APRN specialty certifying organization; and
- (3) ~~current practice guidelines; and~~
- (4) a current collaborative provider agreement if required for transition to practice.

§ 1615. ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES;
REGULATORY AUTHORITY; UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) In addition to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 129a and section 1582 of this chapter, the Board may deny an application for licensure, renewal, or reinstatement, or may revoke, suspend, or otherwise discipline an advanced practice registered nurse upon due notice and opportunity for hearing if the person engages in the following conduct:

* * *

(4) Practice beyond those acts and situations that are within the ~~practice guidelines approved by the Board for an APRN and within the~~ limits of the knowledge and experience of the APRN, and, for an APRN who is practicing under a collaborative agreement, practice beyond those acts and situations that are within both the usual scope of the collaborating provider's practice and the terms of the collaborative agreement.

(5) For an APRN who acts as the collaborating provider for an APRN who is practicing under a collaboration agreement, allowing the mentored APRN to perform a medical act that is outside the usual scope of the mentor's own practice or that the mentored APRN is not qualified to perform by training or experience or that is not consistent with the requirements of this chapter and the rules of the Board.

* * *

Subchapter 3. Registered Nurses and Practical Nurses

* * *

§ 1622. REGISTERED NURSE LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

To be eligible for licensure as a registered nurse by endorsement, an applicant shall:

- (1) hold a current license to practice registered nursing in another U.S. jurisdiction based on education in a ~~U.S.~~ nursing program acceptable to the Board; and

(2) meet practice requirements set by the Board by rule.

* * *

§ 1626. PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

To be eligible for licensure as a practical nurse by endorsement, an applicant shall:

(1) hold a current license to practice practical nursing in another U.S. jurisdiction based on education in a U.S. nursing program acceptable to the Board; and

(2) meet practice requirements set by the Board by rule.

* * *

Subchapter 4. Nursing Assistants

* * *

§ 1645. RENEWAL

(a) To renew a license, a nursing assistant shall meet active practice requirements set by the Board by rule.

(b) The Board shall credit as active practice those activities, regardless of title or obligation to hold a license, that reasonably tend to reinforce the training and skills of a licensee.

* * *

Sec. 19. NURSING COMPACT ASSESSMENT

(a) The Board of Nursing and the Office of Professional Regulation shall assess the costs and benefits of participation in licensure compacts for nurses at various levels of licensure.

(b) On or before March 15, 2019, the Office shall report its assessment to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations. The report may be in verbal form.

* * * Pharmacy * * *

Sec. 20. 26 V.S.A. chapter 36 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 36. PHARMACY

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

* * *

§ 2022. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(4) “Disciplinary action” or “disciplinary cases” includes any action taken by the Board against a licensee or others premised upon a finding of ~~wrongdoing or~~ unprofessional conduct by the licensee. It includes all sanctions of any kind, including obtaining injunctions, issuing warnings, and other similar sanctions.

* * *

(7) “Drug outlet” means all pharmacies, ~~nursing homes, convalescent homes, extended care facilities, drug abuse treatment centers, family planning clinics, retail stores, hospitals,~~ wholesalers, manufacturers, ~~any authorized treatment centers, and mail order vendors~~ other entities that are engaged in the dispensing, delivery, or distribution of prescription drugs.

* * *

(10) “Manufacturer” means ~~anyone who is engaged in manufacturing, preparing, propagating, compounding, processing, packaging, repackaging, or labeling of a prescription drug~~ a person, regardless of form, engaged in the manufacturing of drugs or devices.

(11)(A) “Manufacturing” means the production, preparation, propagation, conversion, or processing of a drug or device, either directly or indirectly, by extraction from substances of natural origin or independently by means of chemical or biological synthesis.

(B) “Manufacturing” includes the packaging or repackaging of a drug or device or the labeling or relabeling of the container of a drug or device for resale by a pharmacy, practitioner, or other person.

(12) “Nonprescription drugs” means nonnarcotic medicines or drugs that may be sold without a prescription and that are prepackaged for use by the consumer and labeled in accordance with the requirements of the statutes and regulations of this State and the federal government.

~~(12)~~(13) “Pharmacist” means an individual licensed under this chapter.

~~(13)~~(14) “Pharmacy technician” means an individual who performs tasks relative to dispensing only while assisting, and under the supervision and control of, a licensed pharmacist.

~~(14)~~(15)(A) “Practice of pharmacy” means:

(i) ~~the interpretation~~ interpreting and ~~evaluation of~~ evaluating prescription orders;

(ii) ~~the~~ compounding, dispensing, and labeling of drugs and legend devices (except labeling by a manufacturer, packer, or distributor of

nonprescription drugs and commercially packaged legend drugs and legend devices);

(iii) ~~the participation~~ participating in drug selection and drug utilization reviews;

(iv) ~~the proper and safe storage of~~ properly and safely storing drugs and legend devices, and ~~the maintenance of~~ maintaining proper records therefor;

(v) ~~the responsibility for~~ advising, where necessary or where regulated, of therapeutic values, content, hazards, and use of drugs and legend devices;

(vi) ~~the providing of~~ patient care services within the pharmacist's authorized scope of practice;

(vii) ~~the optimizing of~~ drug therapy through the practice of clinical pharmacy; and

(viii) ~~the offering or performing of~~ or offering to perform those acts, services, operations, or transactions necessary in the conduct, operation, management, and control of pharmacy.

(B) "Practice of clinical pharmacy" or "clinical pharmacy" means:

* * *

(ii) ~~the provision of~~ providing patient care services within the pharmacist's authorized scope of practice, including medication therapy management, comprehensive medication review, and postdiagnostic disease state management services; or

(iii) ~~the practice of pharmacy by a pharmacist~~ practicing pharmacy pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement.

(C) ~~A rule shall not be adopted by the The Board under this chapter that shall require not adopt any rule requiring that pharmacists or pharmacies be involved in the sale and distribution of nonprescription drugs by a licensed pharmacist or under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist or otherwise interfere with the sale and distribution of such medicines; provided, however, that nothing in this subdivision (C) shall limit the authority of the Board to adopt rules applicable to the elective sale or distribution of nonprescription drugs by pharmacists or pharmacies.~~

(15)(16) "Practitioner" means an individual authorized by the laws of the United States or its jurisdictions or Canada to prescribe and administer prescription drugs in the course of his or her professional practice and permitted by that authorization to dispense, conduct research with respect to,

or administer drugs in the course of his or her professional practice or research in his or her respective state or province.

~~(16)~~(17) “Prescription drug” means any human drug required by federal law or regulation to be dispensed only by a prescription, including finished dosage forms and active ingredients subject to Section 503(b) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

~~(17)~~(18) “Wholesale distribution” means distribution of prescription drugs to persons other than a consumer or patient, but does not include:

* * *

~~(18)~~(19) “Wholesale drug distributor” means any person who is engaged in wholesale distribution of prescription drugs, but does not include any ~~for hire~~ for-hire carrier or person hired solely to transport prescription drugs.

~~(19)~~(20) “Collaborative practice agreement” means a written agreement between a pharmacist and a health care facility or prescribing practitioner that permits the pharmacist to engage in the practice of clinical pharmacy for the benefit of the facility’s or practitioner’s patients.

* * *

Subchapter 2. Board of Pharmacy

§ 2031. CREATION; APPOINTMENT; TERMS; ORGANIZATION

(a)(1) There is hereby created the ~~board of pharmacy~~ Board of Pharmacy to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The ~~board~~ Board shall consist of seven members, five of whom shall be pharmacists licensed under this chapter with five years of experience in the practice of pharmacy in this ~~state~~ State. Two members shall be members of the public having no financial interest in the practice of pharmacy.

(b) Members of the ~~board~~ Board shall be appointed by the ~~governor~~ Governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004. ~~A majority of members shall constitute a quorum, and all action shall be taken upon a majority vote of the members present and voting.~~

* * *

Subchapter 3. Licensing

§ 2041. UNLAWFUL PRACTICE

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the practice of pharmacy unless licensed to so practice under the provisions of this chapter; provided, however, physicians, dentists, veterinarians, osteopaths, or other practitioners of the healing arts who are licensed under the laws of this State

may dispense and administer prescription drugs to their patients in the practice of their respective professions where specifically authorized to do so by statute of this State.

~~(b)(1) Any person who shall be found by the Board after hearing to have unlawfully engaged in the practice of pharmacy shall be subject to disciplinary action.~~

~~(2) For the purpose of enforcing this section, the Attorney General or a State's Attorney or an attorney assigned by the Office of Professional Regulation may commence a criminal action against any person unlawfully engaging in the practice of pharmacy, and upon conviction, the person, including a business entity, violating this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127.~~

~~* * *~~

~~§ 2042b. PHARMACY TECHNICIANS; NONDISCRETIONARY TASKS; SUPERVISION~~

~~* * *~~

~~(f)(1) A pharmacist on duty shall be directly responsible for the conduct of a pharmacy technician.~~

~~(2) A pharmacist responsible for a pharmacy technician shall be on the premises at all times, or in the case of a remote pharmacy approved by the Board, immediately available by a functioning videoconference link.~~

~~(3) A pharmacist shall verify a prescription before medication is provided to the patient.~~

~~* * *~~

~~§ 2044. RENEWAL OF LICENSES~~

~~Each person or entity licensed or regulated under the provisions of this chapter shall apply for renewal biennially by a date established by the director of the office of professional regulation. [Repealed.]~~

~~§ 2045. REINSTATEMENT~~

~~(a) The board may renew a license which has lapsed upon payment of the required fee and the late renewal penalty, provided all the requirements for renewal set by the board by rule, have been satisfied. The board shall not require payment of renewal fees for years during which the license was lapsed.~~

~~(b) As a condition of renewal, the board may by rule set reinstatement requirements for those whose licenses have lapsed for more than five years. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

Subchapter 4. Discipline

~~§ 2051. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT~~

~~The board of pharmacy may refuse to issue or renew, or may suspend, revoke, or restrict the licenses of any person, pursuant to the procedures set forth in section 2052 of this title, upon one or more of the following grounds and upon the grounds set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 129a:~~

~~(1) Unprofessional conduct as that term is defined by the rules and regulations of the board;~~

~~(2) Incapacity of a nature that prevents a pharmacist from engaging in the practice of pharmacy with reasonable skill, competence, and safety to the public;~~

~~(3) Fraud or intentional misrepresentation by a licensee in securing the issuance or renewal of a license;~~

~~(4) Engaging or aiding and abetting an individual to engage in the practice of pharmacy without a license or to falsely use the title of pharmacist;~~

~~(5) Being found by the board to be in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.~~

~~§ 2052. PENALTIES AND REINSTATEMENT~~

~~(a)(1) Upon the finding, after notice and opportunity for hearing, of the existence of grounds for discipline of any person or any drug outlet holding a license, under the provisions of this chapter, the board of pharmacy may impose one or more of the following penalties:~~

~~(A) Suspension of the offender's license for a term to be determined by the board;~~

~~(B) Revocation of the offender's license;~~

~~(C) Restriction of the offender's license to prohibit the offender from performing certain acts or from engaging in the practice of pharmacy in a particular manner for a term to be determined by the board;~~

~~(D) Placement of the offender under the supervision of the board for a period to be determined and under conditions set by the board;~~

~~(E) A requirement to perform up to 100 hours of public service, in a manner and at a time and place to be determined by the board;~~

~~(F) A requirement of a course of education or training;~~

~~(G) An administrative penalty as provided in 3 V.S.A. § 129a(d).~~

(2) ~~[Deleted.]~~

~~(b) Any person or drug outlet whose license to practice pharmacy in this state has been suspended, revoked, or restricted pursuant to this chapter, whether voluntarily or by action of the board, shall have the right, at reasonable intervals, to petition the board for reinstatement of such license. Such petition shall be made in writing and in the form prescribed by the board. Upon hearing, the board may in its discretion grant or deny such petition or it may modify its original finding to reflect any circumstances which have changed sufficiently to warrant such modifications.~~

~~(c) Nothing herein shall be construed as barring criminal prosecutions for violations of this chapter where such violations are deemed as criminal offenses in other statutes of this state or of the United States.~~

~~(d) All final decisions by the board shall be subject to review pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 130a. [Repealed.]~~

Subchapter 5. Registration of Facilities

§ 2061. REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE

(a) All drug outlets shall biennially register with the Board of Pharmacy.

(b) Each drug outlet shall apply for a license in one or more of the following classifications:

- (1) Retail ~~drug outlet~~.
- (2) Institutional ~~drug outlet~~.
- (3) ~~Manufacturing drug outlet~~ Manufacturer.
- (4) Wholesale ~~drug outlet or wholesale drug distributor~~.
- (5) Investigative and research projects.
- (6) Compounding.
- (7) Outsourcing.
- (8) Home infusion.
- (9) Nuclear.

§ 2064. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

(a) ~~No~~ A drug outlet designated in section 2061 of this title ~~subchapter~~ shall not be operated until a license has been issued to ~~said that~~ that outlet by the ~~board~~ Board. ~~Upon the finding of a violation of this section, the board may impose one or more of the penalties enumerated in section 2052 of this title.~~

~~(b) Reinstatement of a license that has been suspended, revoked, or restricted by the board may be granted in accordance with the procedures specified by subsection 2052(b) of this title~~ Unauthorized operation of a drug outlet may be penalized as provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127 and shall constitute unprofessional conduct by the licensees involved.

Subchapter 6. Wholesale ~~Drug~~ Distributors

§ 2067. WHOLESALE ~~DRUG~~ DISTRIBUTOR; LICENSURE REQUIRED

(a) A person who is not licensed under this subchapter shall not engage in wholesale ~~drug~~ distribution in this State.

(b) [Repealed.]

* * *

(d) An agent or employee of any licensed wholesale ~~drug~~ distributor shall not be required to obtain a license under this subchapter and may lawfully possess pharmaceutical drugs when that agent or employee is acting in the usual course of business or employment.

* * *

§ 2071. APPLICATION OF FEDERAL GUIDELINES

(a) The requirements set forth in sections 2068 and 2069 of this ~~title chapter~~ shall conform to wholesale ~~drug~~ distributor licensing guidelines formally adopted by the ~~United States~~ U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

(b) In case of conflict between any wholesale ~~drug~~ distributor licensing requirement imposed by the ~~board~~ Board under this chapter and any FDA wholesale ~~drug~~ distributor licensing guideline, the latter shall control.

§ 2072. LICENSE RENEWAL

~~Licenses and registrations shall be renewed biennially on a schedule as determined by the office of professional regulation.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 2073. RULES

(a) The ~~board~~ Board may adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of the provisions of this subchapter.

(b) All rules adopted under this subchapter shall conform to wholesale ~~drug~~ distributor licensing guidelines formally adopted by the ~~Federal Drug Administration~~ FDA at 21 C.F.R. Part 205.

§ 2074. COMPLAINTS

~~Complaints arising under this subchapter shall be handled according to the~~

~~policies and procedures for handling complaints adopted by the director of the office of professional regulation. [Repealed.]~~

§ 2075. PENALTIES

~~After notice and opportunity for hearing, the board may suspend, revoke, limit, or condition a license granted under this subchapter if the board finds that the licensee:~~

~~(1) violated a provision of this subchapter or a rule adopted by the board under this subchapter; or~~

~~(2) has been convicted of a violation of a federal or state drug law. [Repealed.]~~

§ 2076. INSPECTION POWERS; ACCESS TO WHOLESALE DRUG DISTRIBUTOR RECORDS

(a) A person authorized by the ~~board~~ Board may enter, during normal business hours, all open premises purporting or appearing to be used by a wholesale ~~drug~~ distributor for purposes of inspection.

~~(b)(1) Wholesale drug distributors may keep records regarding purchase and sales transactions at a central location apart from the principal office of the wholesale drug distributor or the location at which the drugs were stored and from which they were shipped, provided that such records shall be made available for inspection within two working days of a request by the board~~ Board.

~~(2) Records may be kept in any form permissible under federal law applicable to prescription drugs~~ record-keeping record keeping.

* * *

Sec. 21. CREATION OF POSITION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; PHARMACY

(a) There is created within the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation one new position: Executive Officer of Pharmacy.

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

* * * Real Estate Brokers and Salespersons * * *

Sec. 22. 26 V.S.A. § 2211 is amended to read:

§ 2211. DEFINITIONS

(a) ~~When~~ As used in this chapter, the following definitions shall have the following meanings except where the context clearly indicates that another meaning is intended:

* * *

(4) "Real estate broker" or "broker" means any person who, for another, for a fee, commission, salary, or other consideration, or with the intention or expectation of receiving or collecting such compensation from another, engages in or offers or attempts to engage in, either directly or indirectly, by a continuing course of conduct, any of the following acts:

* * *

(5) "Real estate salesperson" or "salesperson" means any person who for a fee, compensation, salary, or other consideration, or in the expectation or upon the promise thereof, is employed by or associated with a licensed real estate broker to do any act or deal in any transaction as provided in subdivision (4) of this subsection ~~(a)~~ for or on behalf of ~~such a~~ licensed real estate broker.

(b) The terms "real estate broker," "real estate salesperson," or "broker" shall not be held to include:

(1) Any person, partnership, association, or corporation who as a bona fide owner performs any of the ~~aforsaid~~ acts set forth in subdivision (a)(4) of this section with reference to property owned by them, nor shall it apply to regular employees thereof, ~~where when~~ such acts are performed in the regular course of or as an incident to the management of such property and the investment therein. This subdivision (1) shall not apply to licensees.

* * *

* * * Radiologic Technicians * * *

Sec. 23. 26 V.S.A. § 2803 is amended to read:

§ 2803. EXEMPTIONS

The prohibitions in section 2802 of this chapter shall not apply to dentists licensed under chapter 12 of this title and actions within their scope of practice nor to:

* * *

(5) Any of the following when operating dental radiographic equipment to conduct intraoral radiographic examinations under the general supervision of a licensed practitioner; and, any of the following when operating dental radiographic equipment to conduct specialized radiographic examinations, including tomographic, cephalometric, or temporomandibular joint examinations, if the person has completed a course in radiography approved by the Board of Dental Examiners and practices under the general supervision of a licensed practitioner:

(A) a licensed dental therapist;

(B) a licensed dental hygienist;

~~(B)~~(C) a registered dental assistant who has completed a course in radiography approved by the Board of Dental Examiners; or

~~(C)~~(D) a student of dental therapy, dental hygiene, or dental assisting as part of the training program when directly supervised by a licensed dentist, ~~certified~~ licensed dental therapist, licensed dental hygienist, or a registered dental assistant.

* * *

* * * Private Investigators and Security Guards * * *

Sec. 24. 26 V.S.A. chapter 59 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 59. PRIVATE INVESTIGATIVE AND SECURITY SERVICES

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 3151. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

~~(5) “Qualifying agent” means a licensed private investigator who is responsible for a private investigative services agency or combination agency, or a licensed security guard who is responsible for a private security services agency or combination agency. A sole proprietor shall be the qualifying agent of his or her agency and shall meet all qualifying agent licensure requirements.~~

~~(6) “Combination agency” means an agency that provides both private investigative and private security services to the public.~~

§ 3151a. EXEMPTIONS

(a) The term “private investigator” shall not include:

* * *

(3) Persons regularly employed as investigators, exclusively by one employer in connection with the affairs of that employer only, provided that the employer is not a private investigative agency and the employee is engaged directly as part of the ordinary payroll for tax, accounting, and insurance purposes.

* * *

(b) The term “security guard” shall not include:

* * *

(3) Persons regularly employed as security guards exclusively by one employer in connection with the affairs of that employer only, provided that the employer is not a security agency and the employee is engaged directly as part of the ordinary payroll for tax, accounting, and insurance purposes.

Subchapter 2. State Board of Private Investigative and Security Services

* * *

§ 3162. ~~POWERS AND DUTIES~~ BOARD RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

The Board may:

~~(1) Adopt~~ adopt rules necessary for the performance of its duties, including rules prescribing minimum standards and qualifications for:

(1) security guards who may:

(A) practice independently or head agencies; or

(B) practice within the hierarchy of an agency;

(2) private investigators who may:

(A) practice independently or head agencies; or

(B) practice within the hierarchy of an agency;

(3) agencies; and

(4) recognized trainers and training programs.

~~(2) Conduct any necessary hearings in connection with the issuance, renewal, denial, suspension, or revocation of a license or registration or otherwise related to the disciplining of a licensee, registrant, or applicant.~~

~~(3) Receive and investigate complaints and charges of unprofessional conduct against any holder of a license or registration, or any applicant. The Board shall investigate all complaints in which there are reasonable grounds to believe that unprofessional conduct has occurred.~~

~~(4) Conduct examinations and pass upon the qualifications of applicants for a license or registration.~~

~~(5) Issue subpoenas and administer oaths in connection with any authorized investigation, hearing, or disciplinary proceeding.~~

~~(6) Take or cause depositions to be taken as needed in any investigation, hearing, or proceeding.~~

~~(7)(A) Adopt rules establishing a security guard or private investigator training program, consisting of not fewer than 40 hours of training, as a prerequisite to registration.~~

~~(B) Full-time employees shall complete the training program prior to being issued a permanent registration.~~

~~(C)(i) Part-time employees shall complete not fewer than eight hours of training prior to being issued a part-time employee temporary registration, which shall be valid for not more than 180 days from the date of issuance. The remaining training hours for part-time employees shall be completed within the temporary registration period of 180 days or before the employee has worked 500 hours, whichever occurs first. The part-time employee temporary registration may be issued only once and shall expire after 180 days or 500 hours.~~

~~(ii) As used in this subdivision (C), "part-time employee" means an employee who works no more than 80 hours per month.~~

~~(iii) The Board may prioritize training subjects to require that certain subject areas are covered in the initial eight hours of training required for part-time employees.~~

~~(8) Adopt rules establishing continuing education requirements and establish or approve continuing education programs to assist a licensee or registrant in meeting these requirements.~~

§ 3163. FUNCTIONING OF LICENSING BOARD

~~(a) Annually, the board shall elect a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary.~~

~~(b) Meetings may be called by the chairperson and shall be called upon the request of two other members.~~

~~(c) Meetings shall be warned and conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A. chapter 5.~~

~~(d) A majority of the members of a board shall constitute a quorum, and all action shall be taken upon a majority vote of the members present and voting.~~

~~(e), (f) [Deleted.] [Repealed.]~~

* * *

Subchapter 3. Licensing

* * *

§ 3173. PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR LICENSES

(a) A person shall not engage in the business of private investigation or provide private investigator services in this State without first obtaining a license. The Board shall issue a license to a private investigator after obtaining and approving all of the following:

* * *

(4) evidence that the applicant has successfully passed ~~the~~ any examination required by ~~section 3175 of this title rule.~~

* * *

(c) The Board shall require that ~~the~~ a person licensed to practice independently has had appropriate experience in investigative work, for a period of not less than two years, as determined by the Board. Such experience may include having been regularly employed as a private detective licensed in another state or as an investigator for a private detective licensed in this or another state, ~~or has~~ having been a sworn member of a federal, state, or municipal law enforcement agency.

(d) An application for a license may be denied upon failure of the applicant to provide information required₂; upon a finding that the applicant does not meet a high standard as to character, integrity, and reputation₂; or for unprofessional conduct defined in section 3181 of this ~~title~~ chapter.

* * *

§ 3174. SECURITY GUARD LICENSES

(a) ~~No~~ A person shall not engage in the business of a security guard or provide guard services in this State without first obtaining a license. The Board shall issue a license after obtaining and approving all of the following:

* * *

(4) Evidence that the applicant has successfully passed ~~the~~ any examination required by ~~section 3175 of this title rule.~~

* * *

(c) The Board shall require that ~~the~~ a person licensed to practice independently has had experience satisfactory to the Board in security work, for a period of not less than two years. Such experience may include having been licensed as a security guard in another state or regularly employed as a security guard for a security agency licensed in this or another state, ~~or~~ having been a sworn member of a federal, state, or municipal law enforcement agency.

(d) An application for a license may be denied upon failure of the applicant to provide information required₂; upon a finding that the applicant does not meet a high standard as to character, integrity, and reputation₂; or for unprofessional conduct defined in section 3181 of this ~~title~~ chapter.

* * *

§ 3176b. ~~TEMPORARY REGISTRATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF AGENCIES~~

~~(a) A 60-day temporary registration may be issued to a person who applies for registration as an employee of a licensed private investigator or a licensed security guard under section 3176 of this title. A temporary registration shall authorize a person to work as an unarmed private investigator or unarmed security guard while employed by a private investigator agency or security guard agency licensed by the board.~~

~~(b) Temporary registrations shall expire at the end of the 60-day period or by final action on the application, whichever occurs first. For good cause shown, the board may extend a temporary registration one time for an additional period of 60 days. [Repealed.]~~

§ 3176c. ~~TEMPORARY EMERGENCY REGISTRATION~~

~~(a) If the board determines that the public health, safety, or welfare so requires, it may grant to an applicant a temporary registration to practice as a security guard. To qualify under this section, an applicant shall have a license in good standing to practice as a security guard in another jurisdiction within the United States that regulates the practice. The person seeking the temporary registration shall document to the board's satisfaction that the applicant will otherwise meet all state and federal requirements necessary to perform the specific security duties arising out of the emergency circumstances warranting temporary licensure.~~

~~(b) The board may restrict or condition a temporary registration issued under this section, as it deems appropriate in light of the specific emergency, to a particular facility, industry, geographic area, or scope of duty.~~

~~(c) Duration of practice under a temporary registration shall be determined by the board but shall not exceed 60 days unless the person granted a temporary registration has submitted an application for full registration under this chapter, prior to the expiration of the term of the temporary registration, and the board finds the emergency to be ongoing. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

§ 3178. ~~RENEWALS AND REINSTATEMENT~~

~~A license or registration issued under this chapter shall be renewed biennially upon payment of the required fee. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

§ 3179. ~~PENALTIES~~

(a) A person who engages in the practice or business of a private investigator or security guard without being licensed under to this chapter shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A § 127(e).

* * *

Subchapter 4. Unprofessional Conduct and Discipline

§ 3181. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

* * *

~~(c) After conducting a hearing and upon a finding that a licensee, registrant, or applicant engaged in unprofessional conduct, the board may take disciplinary action. Discipline for unprofessional conduct may include denial of an application, revocation or suspension of a license or registration, supervision, reprimand, warning, or the required completion of a course of action.~~

* * * Clinical Mental Health Counselors * * *

Sec. 25. 26 V.S.A. chapter 65 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 65. CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

* * *

§ 3262a. BOARD OF ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

(a) ~~A~~ The Board of Allied Mental Health Practitioners is established.

* * *

~~(c) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for transacting business, and all action shall be taken upon a majority vote of the members present and voting.~~

* * *

§ 3265. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for licensure as a clinical mental health counselor an applicant shall ~~satisfy all of the following~~ have:

(1) ~~Shall have completed a minimum of 60 graduate hours and received~~ Received a master's degree or higher degree in counseling or a related field, from an accredited educational institution, after having successfully completed a course of study ~~as defined by the board, by rule, which included requiring a minimum number of graduate credit hours established by the Board by rule~~ and a supervised practicum, internship, or field experience, as defined by the board, Board by rule, in a mental health counseling setting.

~~(2) Shall have documented~~ Documented a minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised work in clinical mental health counseling ~~over~~ during a minimum of two years of post-master's experience. ~~Persons engaged in supervised work shall be entered on the roster of nonlicensed, noncertified psychotherapists and shall comply with the laws of that profession, and shall have documented a minimum of, including at least 100 hours of face-to-face supervision over~~ during a minimum of two years of post-master's experience. ~~Clinical work shall be performed under the supervision of a licensed physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Medical Specialties, a licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner, a licensed psychologist, a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a licensed clinical mental health counselor, or a person certified or licensed in another jurisdiction in one of these professions or in a profession which is the substantial equivalent, or a supervisor trained by a regional or national organization which has been approved by the board~~ Persons engaged in supervised work shall be registered on the roster of nonlicensed, noncertified psychotherapists and shall comply with the laws applicable to registrants.

~~(3) Shall pass~~ Passed the examinations required by board Board rules as provided in section 3267 of this title.

§ 3266. APPLICATION

~~To apply for licensure as a clinical mental health counselor, a person shall apply to the board on a form furnished by the board. The application shall be accompanied by payment of the specified fee and evidence of eligibility as requested by the board. [Repealed.]~~

§ 3267. EXAMINATION

~~(a) The board or its designee shall conduct written examinations under this chapter at least twice a year, except that examinations need not be conducted when no one has applied to be examined.~~

~~(b) Examinations administered by the board and the procedures of administration shall be fair and reasonable and shall be designed and implemented to ensure that all applicants are granted licensure if they demonstrate that they possess the minimal occupational qualifications which are consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare. They shall not be designed or implemented for the purpose of limiting the number of license holders. The board with the advice of the clinical mental health counselors who are members of the special panel, shall establish, by rule, fixed criteria for passing the examination that shall apply to all persons taking the examination.~~

~~(c) The board may contract with independent testing services, licensed clinical mental health counselors, or others to assist in the administration of~~

written examinations. [Repealed.]

* * *

§ 3269. RENEWALS

~~(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the required fee, provided the person applying for renewal completes at least 40 hours fees and proof of such continuing education, approved by the board, during the preceding two-year period. The board shall establish, as the Board may require by rule, guidelines and criteria for continuing education credit.~~

~~(b) Biennially, the director shall forward a renewal form to each license holder. Upon receipt of the completed form and the renewal fee, the director shall issue a new license.~~

~~(c) Any application for renewal of a license which has expired shall be accompanied by the renewal fee and a reinstatement fee. A person shall not be required to pay renewal fees for years during which the license was lapsed.~~

~~(d) [Deleted.]~~

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 26. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018, except:

(1) this section and Secs. 2, amending 3 V.S.A. § 125 (fees) and 13 (Director of Professional Regulation; barbers and cosmetologists; rulemaking) shall take effect on passage, except that in Sec. 2, 3 V.S.A. § 125:

(A) subdivisions (b)(2)(A) (application for barbering and cosmetology schools and shops) and (b)(4)(E) and (F) (renewal for barbering and cosmetology professionals and schools) shall take effect on January 1, 2019; and

(B) subdivisions (b)(2)(B) and (b)(4)(G)-(I) (application and renewal for funeral service professionals and establishments) shall take effect on June 1, 2023;

(2) Sec. 6, amending 3 V.S.A. § 129a (unprofessional conduct), shall take effect on July 1, 2019; and

(3) Sec 12, amending 26 V.S.A. chapter 6 (barbers and cosmetologists), shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 2, 2018, pages 522-561 and 583)

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

H. 727.

An act relating to the admissibility of a child's hearsay statements in a proceeding before the Human Services Board.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 4916b is amended to read:

§ 4916b. HUMAN SERVICES BOARD HEARING

(a) Within 30 days ~~of~~ after the date on which the administrative reviewer mailed notice of placement of a report on the Registry, the person who is the subject of the substantiation may apply in writing to the Human Services Board for relief. The Board shall hold a fair hearing pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 3091. When the Department receives notice of the appeal, it shall make note in the Registry record that the substantiation has been appealed to the Board.

(b)(1) The Board shall hold a hearing within 60 days ~~of~~ after the receipt of the request for a hearing and shall issue a decision within 30 days ~~of~~ after the hearing.

(2) Priority shall be given to appeals in which there are immediate employment consequences for the person appealing the decision.

(3) ~~Rule 804a of the Vermont Rules of Evidence (V.R.E.) shall apply to hearings held under this subsection only as follows:~~

(A) ~~V.R.E. 804a(a)(1) and (4) shall apply.~~

(B) ~~V.R.E. 804a(a)(2) shall apply, except that any deposition or testimony given under oath at another proceeding shall be admissible evidence in a hearing held under this subsection.~~

(C) ~~V.R.E. 804a(a)(3) shall apply to hearings under this subsection unless the hearing officer determines, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that requiring the child to testify will present a substantial risk of~~

trauma to the child.

~~(D) V.R.E. 804a(b) shall not apply~~ Article VIII of the Vermont Rules of Evidence (Hearsay) shall not apply to any hearing held pursuant to this subchapter with respect to statements made by a child 12 years of age or under who is alleged to have been abused or neglected and the child shall not be required to testify or give evidence at any hearing held under this subchapter. Evidence shall be admissible if the time, content, and circumstances of the statements provide substantial indicia of trustworthiness.

(B) Article VIII of the Vermont Rules of Evidence (Hearsay) shall not apply to any hearing held pursuant to this subchapter with respect to statements made by a child who is at least 13 years of age and under 16 years of age who is alleged to have been abused or neglected and the child shall not be required to testify or give evidence at any hearing held under this subchapter in either of the following circumstances:

(i) The hearing officer determines, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that requiring the child to testify will present a substantial risk of trauma to the child. Evidence of trauma need not be offered by an expert and may be offered by any adult with an ongoing significant relationship with the child. Evidence shall be admissible if the time, content, and circumstances of the statements provide substantial indicia of trustworthiness.

(ii) The hearing officer determines that the child is physically unavailable to testify or the Department has made diligent efforts to locate the child and was unsuccessful. Evidence shall be admissible if the time, content, and circumstances of the statements provide substantial indicia of trustworthiness.

(4) Convictions and adjudications ~~which~~ that arose out of the same incident of abuse or neglect for which the person was substantiated, whether by verdict, by judgment, or by a plea of any type, including a plea resulting in a deferred sentence, shall be competent evidence in a hearing held under this subchapter.

(c) A hearing may be stayed upon request of the petitioner if there is a related case pending in the Criminal or Family Division of the Superior Court ~~which~~ that arose out of the same incident of abuse or neglect for which the person was substantiated.

(d) If no review by the Board is requested, the Department's decision in the case shall be final, and the person shall have no further right for review under this section. The Board may grant a waiver and permit such a review upon good cause shown.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 28, 2018, pages 469-471)

H. 901.

An act relating to health information technology and health information exchange.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE; PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) On or before May 1, 2018, the Department of Vermont Health Access and the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL) shall submit to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Ways and Means; the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, and on Finance; and the Green Mountain Care Board a work plan detailing the process by which the Department and VITL shall implement the recommendations of the health information technology report submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 15 (Act 73 report). The work plan shall be informed by stakeholder and consumer input and by technology options and opportunities. The Plan shall identify potential steps for addressing issues of data ownership and issues of intellectual property. It shall also set forth both a timeline of tasks to be completed and a list of clear objectives to assist the General Assembly in evaluating the success or failure of the parties' work.

(b) On or before September 1, 2018, the Department of Vermont Health Access and VITL shall submit to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Ways and Means; the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, and on Finance; the Health Reform Oversight Committee; and the Green Mountain Care Board a contingency plan for health information technology to be used if the Department and VITL are unable to implement the recommendations from the Act 73 report. The contingency plan shall contain the following:

(1) a description of the health information exchange services that would need to be replaced;

(2) a process for determining the manner in which the services would be replaced and the mechanism for acquiring the replacement services, such as a request for proposals;

(3) an assessment of the State's ownership interests in hardware systems, software systems, applications, data, and other physical and intellectual property that would need to be licensed to a future operator of Vermont's health information exchange;

(4) a plan for transitioning operations from VITL to the new operator or operators; and

(5) the impacts of the change on health care providers, health care consumers, State government, and Vermont's health care reform initiatives.

(c) On or before October 15, 2018, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall submit to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Ways and Means; the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, and on Finance; the Health Reform Oversight Committee; and the Green Mountain Care Board the results of an evaluation, which shall be conducted by an independent entity with expertise in health information technology, of the work plan, the contingency plan, and the Department's and VITL's progress toward implementing the recommendations in the Act 73 report.

(d) On or before May 1, July 1, September 1, and November 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019, the Department of Vermont Health Access and VITL shall provide to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Health Care, and on Ways and Means; the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Health and Welfare, and on Finance; the Health Reform Oversight Committee; and the Green Mountain Care Board written updates on their progress toward implementing the recommendations contained in the Act 73 report.

(e) In addition to the written updates required by subsection (d) of this section, the Department of Vermont Health Access and VITL shall provide testimony on their progress toward implementing the recommendations contained in the Act 73 report at a meeting of the Health Reform Oversight Committee at least once every two months or more frequently if so requested by the Committee. The testimony at the Committee's first meeting after the General Assembly has adjourned in 2018 shall also include information regarding the work plan required by subsection (a) of this section, and the testimony at the Committee's first meeting after September 1, 2018 shall also include information regarding the contingency plan required by subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9351 is amended to read:

§ 9351. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

(a)(1) ~~The Secretary of Administration or designee~~ Department of Vermont Health Access, in consultation with the Department's Health Information Exchange Steering Committee, shall be responsible for the overall coordination of Vermont's statewide Health Information Technology Plan. The Plan shall be revised annually and updated comprehensively every five years to provide a strategic vision for clinical health information technology.

(2) The Department shall submit the proposed Plan to the Green Mountain Care Board annually on or before November 1. The Green Mountain Care Board shall approve, reject, or request modifications to the Plan within 45 days following its submission; if the Board has taken no action after 45 days, the Plan shall be deemed to have been approved.

(3) ~~The Secretary or designee~~ Department, in consultation with the Steering Committee, shall administer the Plan, which shall include the implementation of an integrated electronic health information infrastructure for the sharing of electronic health information among health care facilities, health care professionals, public and private payers, and patients. The Plan shall include standards and protocols designed to promote patient education, patient privacy, physician best practices, electronic connectivity to health care data, access to advance care planning documents, and, overall, a more efficient and less costly means of delivering quality health care in Vermont.

* * *

(c) ~~The Secretary of Administration or designee may update the Plan~~ Department of Vermont Health Access, in consultation with the Steering Committee and subject to Green Mountain Care Board approval, may propose updates to the Plan in addition to the annual updates as needed to reflect emerging technologies, the State's changing needs, and such other areas as the ~~Secretary or designee~~ Department deems appropriate. ~~The Secretary or designee~~ Department shall solicit recommendations from ~~Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL) and other entities~~ interested stakeholders in order to ~~update~~ propose updates to the Health Information Technology Plan pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and to this subsection, including applicable standards, protocols, and pilot programs, and following approval of the proposed updates by the Green Mountain Care Board, may enter into a contract or grant agreement with ~~VITL or other~~ appropriate entities to update some or all of the Plan. Upon approval ~~by the Secretary of the updated Plan~~ by the Green Mountain Care Board, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall distribute the updated Plan ~~shall be distributed to the Secretary of Administration; the Commissioner of Information and Innovation~~ Secretary of

Digital Services; the Commissioner of Financial Regulation; ~~the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access~~; the Secretary of Human Services; the Commissioner of Health; the Commissioner of Mental Health; the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare; the House Committee on Health Care; affected parties; and interested stakeholders. Unless major modifications are required, the ~~Secretary~~ Department may present updated information about the Plan to the ~~Green Mountain Care Board~~ and legislative committees of jurisdiction in lieu of creating a written report.

* * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 9352 is amended to read:

§ 9352. VERMONT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

(a)(1) Governance. The Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL) Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than nine nor more than 14 members. The term of each member shall be two years, except that of the members first appointed, approximately one-half shall serve a term of one year and approximately one-half shall serve a term of two years, and members shall continue to hold office until their successors have been duly appointed. The Board of Directors shall comprise the following:

(A) ~~one member~~ two current members of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be a member of the House of Representatives appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate one of whom shall be a member of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees, ~~who~~ and both of whom shall be entitled to ~~the same~~ per diem compensation and ~~expense reimbursement of expenses~~ pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 as ~~provided for attendance at sessions during adjournment~~ of the General Assembly;

(B) one individual appointed by the Governor; and

(C) ~~one representative of the business community;~~

~~(D) one representative of health care consumers;~~

~~(E) one representative of Vermont hospitals;~~

~~(F) one representative of Vermont physicians;~~

~~(G) one practicing clinician licensed to practice medicine in Vermont;~~

~~(H) one representative of a health insurer licensed to do business in Vermont;~~

~~(I) the President of VITL, who shall be an ex officio, nonvoting~~

member;

~~(J) two individuals familiar with health information technology, at least one of whom shall be the chief technology officer for a health care provider; and~~

~~(K) two at-large members representatives of the business community, of health care consumers, of Vermont hospitals, of Vermont-licensed clinicians, and of health insurers licensed to offer plans in Vermont, as well as individuals familiar with health information technology, including, to the extent practicable, one or more individuals who are or have served as the chief technology officer for a health care facility.~~

(2) Except for the members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (1)(A) and (B) of this subsection, whenever a vacancy on the Board occurs, the members of the Board of Directors then serving shall appoint a new member who shall meet the same criteria as the member he or she replaces.

* * *

(c)(1) Health information exchange operation. VITL shall be designated in the Health Information Technology Plan approved by the Green Mountain Care Board pursuant to section 9351 of this title to operate the exclusive statewide health information exchange network for this State. After the The Plan shall determine the manner in which Vermont's health information exchange network shall be managed. The Green Mountain Care Board approves shall have the authority to approve VITL's core activities and budget pursuant to chapter 220 of this title, ~~the Secretary of Administration or designee shall enter into procurement grant agreements with VITL pursuant to 8 V.S.A. § 4089k.~~ Nothing in this chapter shall impede local community providers from the exchange of electronic medical data.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of 3 V.S.A. § 2222 or 2283b to the contrary, upon request of the Secretary of Administration, the ~~Department of Information and Innovation~~ Agency of Digital Services shall review VITL's technology for security, privacy, and interoperability with State government information technology, consistent with the State's health information technology plan required by section 9351 of this title.

(d) Privacy. The standards and protocols implemented by VITL shall be consistent with those adopted by the statewide Health Information Technology Plan pursuant to subsection 9351(e) of this title.

(e) Report. ~~No later than~~ On or before January 15 of each year, VITL shall file a report with the Green Mountain Care Board; the Secretary of Administration; the Commissioner of Information and Innovation ~~Secretary of Digital Services;~~ the Commissioner of Financial Regulation; the

Commissioner of Vermont Health Access; the Secretary of Human Services; the Commissioner of Health; the Commissioner of Mental Health; the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare; and the House Committee on Health Care. The report shall include an assessment of progress in implementing health information technology in Vermont and recommendations for additional funding and legislation required. In addition, VITL shall publish minutes of VITL meetings and any other relevant information on a public website. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

(f) Funding authorization. VITL is authorized to seek matching funds to assist with carrying out the purposes of this section. In addition, it may accept any and all donations, gifts, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services from the federal or any local government, or any agency thereof, and from any person, firm, foundation, or corporation for any of its purposes and functions under this section and may receive and use the same, subject to the terms, conditions, and regulations governing such donations, gifts, and grants. VITL shall not use any State funds for health care consumer advertising, marketing, or similar services unless necessary to comply with the terms of a contract or grant that requires a contribution of State funds.

(g) Waivers. The Secretary of ~~Administration~~ Human Services or designee, in consultation with VITL, may seek any waivers of federal law, of rule, or of regulation that might assist with implementation of this section.

(h) [Repealed.]

(i) Certification of meaningful use and connectivity.

(1) To the extent necessary to support Vermont's health care reform goals or as required by federal law, VITL shall be authorized to certify the meaningful use of health information technology and electronic health records by health care providers licensed in Vermont.

(2) VITL, in consultation with health care providers and health care facilities, shall establish criteria for creating or maintaining connectivity to the State's health information exchange network. VITL shall provide the criteria annually ~~by~~ on or before March 1 to the Green Mountain Care Board established pursuant to chapter 220 of this title.

(j) Scope of activities. VITL and any person who serves as a member, director, officer, or employee of VITL with or without compensation shall not be considered a health care provider as defined in subdivision 9432 of this title for purposes of any action taken in good faith pursuant to or in reliance upon provisions of this section relating to VITL's:

- (1) governance;
- (2) electronic exchange of health information and operation of the statewide Health Information Exchange Network as long as nothing in such exchange or operation constitutes the practice of medicine pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33;
- (3) implementation of privacy provisions;
- (4) funding authority;
- (5) application for waivers of federal law;
- (6) establishment and operation of a financing program providing electronic health records systems to providers; or
- (7) certification of health care providers' meaningful use of health information technology.

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9375(b) is amended to read:

- (b) The Board shall have the following duties:

* * *

(2)(A) Review and approve Vermont's statewide Health Information Technology Plan pursuant to section 9351 of this title to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to enable the State to achieve the principles expressed in section 9371 of this title. ~~In performing its review, the Board shall consult with and consider any recommendations regarding the plan received from the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL).~~

(B) Review and approve the criteria required for health care providers and health care facilities to create or maintain connectivity to the State's health information exchange as set forth in section 9352 of this title. Within 90 days following this approval, the Board shall issue an order explaining its decision.

(C) ~~Annually review the budget and all activities of VITL and approve the budget, consistent with available funds, and the core activities associated with public funding, which shall include establishing the interconnectivity of electronic medical records held by health care professionals and the storage, management, and exchange of data received from such health care professionals, for the purpose of improving the quality of and efficiently providing health care to Vermonters of the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL). This review shall take into account VITL's responsibilities pursuant to section 9352 of this title and the availability of funds needed to support those responsibilities.~~

* * *

Sec. 5. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 60(10), as amended by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 14, is further amended to read:

(10) Secs. 48-51 (health claims tax) shall take effect on July 1, 2013 and 52 and 53 (health claims tax revenue; Health IT-Fund; sunset) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2018~~ 2019.

Sec. 6. FUTURE OF HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE NETWORK;
LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is essential to the future of health information technology and health information exchange in Vermont that the recommendations of the health information technology report submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 15 are successfully implemented in a thorough and timely manner. If they are not successfully implemented pursuant to the timeline adopted in the work plan described in Sec. 1 of this act, it is the intent of the General Assembly to eliminate the designation of Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. to operate the exclusive statewide health information exchange network for Vermont pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9352.

Sec. 7. HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE; CONSENT POLICY;
REPORT

The Department of Vermont Health Access, in consultation with Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc., the Office of the Health Care Advocate, and other interested stakeholders, shall provide recommendations to the House Committees on Health Care and on Energy and Technology and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2019 regarding whether individual consent to the exchange of health care information through the Vermont Health Information Exchange should be on an opt-in or opt-out basis.

Sec. 8. IMPROVING INTEROPERABILITY OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH
RECORDS SYSTEMS; REPORT

The Department of Vermont Health Access, in consultation with Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. and other interested stakeholders, shall provide recommendations to the House Committees on Health Care and on Energy and Technology and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2019 regarding ways to improve the utility and interoperability of electronic health records and health information exchange in Vermont.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments)

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 1, health information technology; health information exchange; progress reports, subsections (b), (c), and (d) following “the Health Reform Oversight Committee;” by inserting the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee;

Second: In Sec. 1, health information technology; health information exchange; progress reports, subsection (e), in the first sentence, following “Health Reform Oversight Committee”, by inserting and at a meeting of the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee, and at the end of the first sentence, by striking out “the Committee” and inserting in lieu thereof a Committee

Third: In Sec. 1, health information technology; health information exchange; progress reports, subsection (e), in the second sentence, preceding both instances of the word “Committee’s”, by striking out the word “the” and inserting in lieu thereof the word each

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

H. 919.

An act relating to workforce development.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Stakeholder Alignment, Coordination, and Engagement * * *

Sec. 1. STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT, COORDINATION, AND
ENGAGEMENT PROCESS; VISION; GOALS

(a) Stakeholder alignment, coordination, and engagement. The State Workforce Development Board, in cooperation with the Department of Labor and the Agencies of Commerce and Community Development, of Education, of Human Services, of Agriculture, Food and Markets, of Natural Resources, and of Transportation shall:

(1) conduct a stakeholder alignment, coordination, and engagement process, consistent with 20 C.F.R. §§ 679.100 and 679.130 and 10 V.S.A. § 541a, to ensure and promote better coordination and agreement around the State's vision and shared goals for meeting Vermont's 21st-century workforce education, training, recruitment, and retention needs;

(2) design the stakeholder alignment, coordination, and engagement process to inform workforce-related aspects of other State strategic plans and reports, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act State Plan, the State Economic Development Marketing Plan, and the Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; and

(3) solicit the perspectives of job seekers, incumbent workers, employers, industry representatives, program administrators, and workforce service delivery providers.

(b) Action plan. In adopting an action plan, the State Workforce Development Board shall:

(1) on or before February 1, 2020, describe the State's collective workforce development goals, which shall serve as the basis for an action plan to revitalize Vermont's workforce development system;

(2) post online the vision, goals, and any findings or recommendations; and

(3) provide advance notice to the Chair and Vice Chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs if the recommendations may require legislative action during the 2020 legislative session.

(c) Regional delivery systems. The State Workforce Development Board shall review how functions performed by local workforce investment boards, career technical education regional advisory boards, regional planning commissions, regional development corporations, and other regional economic development and workforce-related boards could be more equitably executed from region to region and recommend structures that would foster better regional collaboration, alignment, and employer participation.

(d) Information sharing. The Department of Labor, with assistance from the State Workforce Development Board, shall facilitate the sharing of

information among workforce development and training-delivery organizations during and following the stakeholder alignment, coordination, and engagement process so they may stay current with initiatives and plans related to building an effective workforce development system.

(e) Board authority; permissive activities. The State Workforce Development Board may:

(1) create a workforce development network map of workforce service delivery providers, employers, workforce program administrators, and industry representatives to:

(A) develop baseline data in conformance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act about how individuals, including new Americans, and organizations, both within and outside State government, are involved with workforce development and training around the State;

(B) analyze the relative level of connectivity of people and programs managed inside and outside State government; and

(C) identify opportunities to strengthen connectivity to achieve greater program alignment toward, and realize the Board's vision for, the State's workforce development and training system;

(2) identify the resources necessary to maintain the network map over time and track changes in levels of connectivity and alignment across the stakeholder community;

(3) recommend strategies to improve:

(A) how employer-outreach positions in each of the State-funded field offices might be shared;

(B) what type of coordination is needed between the State-level employer-outreach staff and local workforce organizations, including staff of the regional development corporations and regional planning commissions, to better serve employers;

(C) whether establishing a One-Stop American Job Center in each region to provide comprehensive customer-driven services for employers and job seekers could better serve businesses, improve responsiveness to the needs of emerging sectors, and increase access to qualified, available workers through direct outreach and recruitment;

(D) scaling or expanding pilot projects that link experts who have career and industry knowledge directly with middle schools or high schools, or both, to foster career readiness and exploration;

(E) ways to share data and information collected from employers among parties who implement workforce development programs; and

(F) what knowledge and education employers may require better to respond to their employees as workers and as members of a family; and

(4) following the stakeholder alignment, coordination, and engagement process outlined in subsection (a) of this section, make recommendations to align relevant funding sources to promote:

(A) employer-driven workforce education and training opportunities;

(B) results-based outcomes;

(C) innovative and effective initiatives, pilots, or demonstration programs that can be scaled to the rest of the State;

(D) access to federal resources that enable more innovative programs and initiatives in Vermont;

(E) equitable access to employment and training opportunities for women and underrepresented populations in Vermont; and

(F) best practices aligned with a two-generation approach to eliminating poverty, as identified by the Vermont Work Group on Whole Family Approach to Jobs.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 541a is amended to read:

§ 541a. STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(a) Board established; duties. Pursuant to the requirements of 29 U.S.C. § 3111, the Governor shall establish a the State Workforce Development Board to assist the Governor in the execution of his or her duties under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and to assist the Commissioner of Labor as specified in section 540 of this title.

(b) Additional duties; planning; process.

(1) In order to To inform its ~~decision-making~~ decision making and to provide effective assistance under subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall:

~~(1)~~(A) conduct an ongoing public engagement process throughout the State that brings together employers and potential employees, including students, the unemployed, and incumbent employees seeking further training, to provide feedback and information concerning their workforce education and training needs; and

~~(2)~~(B) maintain familiarity and promote alignment with the federal, State, and regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

and other economic development planning processes, and coordinate workforce and education activities in the State, including the development and implementation of the State plan required under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, with economic development planning processes occurring in the State, as appropriate.

(2) To ensure that State-funded and federally funded workforce development and training efforts are of the highest quality and aligned with the State’s workforce and economic goals, the Board shall regularly:

(A) review and approve State-endorsed Career Pathways that reflect a shared vision across multiple sectors and agencies for improving employment outcomes, meeting employers’ and workers’ needs, and leveraging available State and federal funding; and

(B) publicize the State-endorsed Career Pathways, including on websites managed by the Agency of Education, Department of Labor, and Department of Economic Development.

(3) The Board shall have the authority to approve State-endorsed and industry-recognized credentials and certificates, excluding high school diplomas and postsecondary academic degrees, that are aligned with the Career Pathways.

* * *

Sec. 3. RESERVATION OF FUNDS; IMPLEMENTATION

In fiscal year 2019, the Department of Labor shall reserve the amount of \$40,000.00 from the Workforce Development Council Fund and the amount of \$40,000.00 of federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds reserved by the Governor for statewide workforce investment activities, subject to permissible use, to assist the State Workforce Development Board in performing the duties specified in this act.

* * * CTE and Adult Technical Education; Career Pathways * * *

Sec. 4. CAREER PATHWAYS

(a) Definition. As used in this section, “career pathways” means a combination of rigorous and high-quality educational, training, and other experiences and services, beginning not later than seventh grade, that:

(1) at the secondary level, integrates the academic and technical skills required for postsecondary success;

(2) is developed in partnership with business and industry and aligns with the skill needs of industries in the local, regional, and State economies;

(3) prepares an individual to transition seamlessly from secondary to

postsecondary or adult technical education experiences and be successful in any of a full range of secondary, postsecondary, or adult technical education options, including registered apprenticeships;

(4) includes career counseling and work-based learning experiences to support an individual in achieving the individual's educational and career goals;

(5) includes, as appropriate, education offered concurrently with, and in the same context as, workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

(6) organizes educational, training, and other experiences and services, with multiple entry and exit points along a training progression, to meet the particular needs of an individual in a manner that accelerates the educational and career advancement of the individual to the extent practicable;

(7) enables an individual to gain a secondary-school diploma or its recognized equivalent and allow postsecondary credit and industry certifications to be earned in high school; and

(8) prepares an individual to enter, or to advance within, a specific occupation or occupational cluster.

(b) Development of career pathways. The Agency of Education shall implement a process for developing career pathways that considers:

(1) State and local labor market demands;

(2) the recommendations of regional career technical education advisory boards or other employer-based boards;

(3) alignment with postsecondary education and training opportunities; and

(4) students' ability to gain credentials of value, dual enrollment credits, postsecondary credentials or degrees, and employment.

(c) Reporting. The Agency of Education shall report its progress in developing career pathways to the Board on an annual basis.

Sec. 5. CAREER READINESS; CTE PILOTS

(a) Collaboration. The Agency of Education shall promote collaboration among middle schools and regional career technical education (CTE) centers to engage in activities including:

(1) developing and delivering introductory CTE courses or lessons to middle school students that are part of broader career education, exploration, and development programs and that are connected to career pathways and CTE programs, as appropriate;

(2) increasing student exposure to local career opportunities through activities such as business tours, guest lectures, career fairs, and career-awareness days; and

(3) increasing student exposure to CTE programs through activities such as tours of regional CTE centers, virtual field trips, and CTE guest visits.

(b) Pilot projects. The Agency of Education shall approve up to four pilot projects in a variety of CTE settings. These pilot projects shall propose novel ways of integrating funding for CTE and general education and new governance structures for regional CTE centers, including unified governance structures between regional CTE centers and high schools, or both. Pilot projects shall require both high school and regional CTE center involvement, and shall be designed to enhance the delivery of educational experiences to both high school students and CTE students while addressing the current competitive nature of funding CTE programs.

(1) A pilot project shall extend not longer than two years.

(2) The Agency shall establish guidelines, proposal submission requirements, and a review process to approve pilot projects.

(3) On or before January 15, 2020, the Agency shall report on the outcomes of the pilot projects to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(c) Recommendation on CTE pre-tech programs. On or before January 15, 2020, the Agency of Education shall recommend to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate Committee on Economic Development flexible and student-centered policies that support equitable access and opportunity to participate in CTE pre-tech foundation and exploratory programs for students in grades 9 and 10. This recommendation shall include building such activities into students' personalized learning plans when appropriate, so that students are exposed to a wide variety of career choices in their areas of interest. In making its recommendation, the Agency shall consider:

(1) the existing practices of regional CTE centers currently offering CTE pre-tech foundation and exploratory programs for students in grades 9 and 10;

(2) the results of the collaborative efforts made between regional CTE centers and middle schools as required under subsection (a) of this section; and

(3) the results of the pilot projects under subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Technical assistance.

(1) The Agency of Education shall provide technical assistance to schools to help them develop career education, exploration, and development, beginning in middle school, and introduce opportunities available through the regional CTE centers.

(2) The Agency of Education shall offer technical assistance so that regional CTE centers provide rigorous programs of study to students that are aligned with approved career pathways. Such programs of study may be combined with a registered apprenticeship program when the registered apprenticeship program is included in a student's personalized learning plan.

(3) The Agency of Education shall offer technical assistance to local education agencies to ensure that each high school student has the opportunity to experience meaningful work-based learning when included in the student's personalized learning plan, and that high schools coordinate effectively with regional CTE centers to avoid unnecessary duplication of programs of student placements and study already provided by the centers.

(e) Definition. As used in this section, "career pathways" shall have the same meaning as in Sec. 4 of this act.

Sec. 6. ADULT TRAINING PROGRAMS

(a) Effective use of State investments. The Department of Labor shall ensure that the State's investments in adult training programs are part of a system that is responsive to labor-market demands, provides equitable access to a broad variety of training opportunities, and provides to those jobseekers with barriers to employment the accommodations or services they need to be successful.

(b) Delivery of training programs. Training programs delivered by regional CTE centers, nonprofit and private entities, and institutions of higher education shall be included in the system.

(c) Technical assistance. The Agency of Education shall provide technical and programmatic guidance and assistance, as appropriate, to the Department of Labor to ensure alignment between secondary and postsecondary programs, policies, funding, and institutions.

Sec. 7. ADULT CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(a) Regional career technical education (CTE) centers. Vermont's regional CTE centers shall offer adult CTE programs that:

(1) develop technical courses for adults, aligned with a career pathway when possible, that support the occupational training needs of Vermonters seeking to up-skill, re-skill, and obtain credentials leading to employment;

(2) ensure that new and existing training responds to local or Statewide labor market demands;

(3) coordinate with State and regional partners, including other CTE centers, high schools, postsecondary educational institutions, and private training providers, to ensure quality, consistency, efficiency, and efficacy of State and federally funded training opportunities;

(4) support expansion of adult work-based learning experiences, such as registered apprenticeships, by providing related instruction, as appropriate; and

(5) maximize use of federal and State funds by aligning with the State's goals, priorities, and strategies outlined in Vermont's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Unified plan.

(b) Evaluation of technical and occupational training. The State Workforce Development Board shall review how technical and occupational training is delivered to adults throughout the State and consider how adult CTE programs, delivered through the regional CTE centers, contribute to this system. The Board shall make recommendations on:

(1) staffing levels and structures that best support a strong adult technical education system;

(2) optimal hours of operation and facility availability for adult programs; and

(3) any other issues it finds relevant to enhancing support for adult technical education.

(c) Reporting. On or before January 15, 2019, the Board shall report its findings and recommendations to the House Committees on Education and on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committees on Education and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(d) Partnering with employers. Nothing in this section shall prevent an adult CTE program or regional CTE center from partnering directly with employers to design and deliver programs meeting specific needs of employers or provide additional courses that meet a State or community need.

(e) Definition. As used in this section, "career pathways" shall have the same meaning as in Sec. 4 of this act.

* * * Workforce Training * * *

Sec. 8. STRENGTHENING AND ALIGNING WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS

The State Workforce Development Board shall:

(1) create a process for identifying, monitoring, and evaluating occupational trainings and industry-recognized credentials, which may include a mechanism for endorsing programs that offer credentials or certificates in order to facilitate targeted investments in programs that meet industry needs, ensuring that:

(A) business and industry are participants and are engaged early in the process;

(B) the credential review process involves relevant stakeholders;

(C) credentials are differentiated based on rigor and industry demand; and

(D) systems are designed to be responsive to the changing needs of industry;

(2) create and periodically review publicly available documents that list:

(A) current industry-recognized, State-recognized, and federally recognized credentials;

(B) the requirements to obtain these credentials;

(C) training programs that lead to these credentials; and

(D) the cost of training and educational programs required to obtain the credential; and

(3) work with the Office of Professional Regulation:

(A) to increase recognition of professional skills and credentialing across states; and

(B) to support professional paths that involve more than one industry-recognized, State-recognized, or federally recognized credential and rules adopted by the Office.

Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 543 is amended to read:

§ 543. WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND; GRANT PROGRAMS

(a) Creation. There is created the Workforce Education and Training Fund in the Department of Labor to be managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5.

(b) Purposes. The Department shall use the Fund for the following purposes:

(1) training for Vermont workers, including those who are unemployed, underemployed, or in transition from one job or career to another;

(2) internships to provide students with work-based learning opportunities with Vermont employers;

(3) apprenticeship, preapprenticeship, and industry-recognized credential training; and

(4) assistance to small businesses for recruiting, including building connections with secondary and postsecondary institutions and others to locate, hire, and retain workers from among Vermont's students and graduates; and

(5) other workforce development initiatives related to current and future job opportunities in Vermont as determined by the Commissioner of Labor.

* * *

(f) Awards. The Commissioner of Labor, in consultation with the Chair of the State Workforce Development Board, shall develop award criteria and may grant awards to the following:

* * *

(2) Vermont ~~Strong~~ Internship Program. Funding for eligible internship programs and activities under the Vermont ~~Strong~~ Internship Program established in section 544 of this title.

(3) Vermont ~~Strong~~ Returnship Program. Funding for eligible returnship programs and activities under the Vermont ~~Strong~~ Returnship Program established in section 545 of this title.

(4) Apprenticeship Program. The Vermont Apprenticeship Program established under 21 V.S.A. chapter 13. Awards under this subdivision may be used to fund the cost of apprenticeship-related instruction provided by the Department of Labor.

(4)(5) Career Focus and Planning programs. In collaboration with the Agency of Education, funding for one or more programs that institute career training and planning for young Vermonters, beginning in middle school.

(g) Career Pathways. Programs that are funded under this section resulting in a credit, certificate, or credential shall demonstrate alignment with a Career Pathway.

(h) Expanding offerings. A regional career and technical education center that develops an adult technical education program of study using funding under this section shall:

(1) make the program materials available to other regional career and technical education centers and adult technical education programs;

(2) to the extent possible, align the program with subsequent programs

offered through the Vermont State College System, the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, or an accredited independent college located in Vermont; and

(3) respond to current or projected occupational demands.

* * *

* * * Growing the Workforce and Increasing Workforce Participation * * *

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 544 is amended to read:

§ 544. VERMONT STRONG INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

(a)(1) The Department of Labor, in consultation with the Agency of Education, shall develop, and the Department shall implement, a statewide Vermont Strong Internship Program for students who are in high school or in college and for those who are recent graduates of 24 months or less.

(2) The Department of Labor shall coordinate and provide funding to public and private entities for internship programs that match Vermont employers with students from public and private secondary schools, regional technical centers, the Community High School of Vermont, colleges, and recent graduates of 24 months or less.

(3) Funding awarded through the Vermont Strong Internship Program may be used to build and administer an internship program and to provide participants with a stipend during the internship, based on need. Funds may be made only to programs or projects that:

(A) do not replace or supplant existing positions;

(B) expose students to the workplace or create real workplace expectations and consequences;

(C) provide a process that measures progress toward mastery of skills, attitude, behavior, and sense of responsibility required for success in that workplace;

(D) are designed to motivate and educate participants through work-based learning opportunities with Vermont employers;

(E) include mechanisms that promote employer involvement with secondary and postsecondary students and curriculum and the delivery of education at the participating schools; or

(F) offer participants a continuum of learning, experience, and relationships with employers that will make it financially possible and attractive for graduates to continue to work and live in Vermont.

(4) As used in this section, “internship” means a learning experience

working with an employer where the intern may, but does not necessarily, receive academic credit, financial remuneration, a stipend, or any combination of these.

(b) The Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Agencies of Agriculture, Food and Markets and of Education, State-funded postsecondary educational institutions, the State Workforce Development Board, and other State agencies and departments that have workforce education and training and training monies, shall:

(1) identify new and existing funding sources that may be allocated to the Vermont Strong Internship Program;

(2) collect data and establish program goals and performance measures that demonstrate program results for internship programs funded through the Vermont Strong Internship Program;

(3) develop or enhance a website that will connect students and graduates with internship opportunities with Vermont employers;

(4) engage appropriate agencies and departments of the State in the Vermont Internship Program to expand internship opportunities with State government and with entities awarded State contracts; and

(5) work with other public and private entities to develop and enhance internship programs, opportunities, and activities throughout the State.

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. 545 is added to read:

§ 545. VERMONT RETURNSHIP PROGRAM

(a) As used in this section, “returnship” means:

(1) an on-the-job learning experience working with an employer where an individual may, but does not necessarily, receive academic credit, financial remuneration, a stipend, or any combination of these; and

(2) is targeted to Vermonters who are returning to the workforce after an extended absence or are seeking a limited-duration on-the-job work experience in a different occupation or occupational setting.

(b)(1) The Department of Labor shall develop and implement the statewide Vermont Returnship Program.

(2) The Department of Labor shall coordinate and provide funding to public and private entities for returnship programs and opportunities that match experienced workers with Vermont employers.

(3) Funding awarded through the Program may be used to build and administer coordinated and cohesive programs and to provide participants with

a stipend during the returnship, based on need. Funds may be made available only to programs or projects that:

(A) do not replace or supplant existing positions;

(B) expose individuals to real and meaningful workplace experiences;

(C) provide a process that measures progress toward mastery of hard and soft professional skills and other factors that indicate a likelihood of success in the workplace;

(D) are designed to motivate and educate participants through work-based learning opportunities with Vermont employers; or

(E) offer participants a continuum of learning, experience, and relationships with employers that will make it financially possible and attractive for individuals to continue to work and live in Vermont.

(c) The Department of Labor shall:

(1) identify new and existing funding sources that may be allocated to the Program;

(2) collect data and establish program goals and performance measures that demonstrate program results for returnship programs funded through the Program;

(3) engage appropriate agencies and departments of the State in the Program to expand returnship opportunities within State government and with entities awarded State contracts; and

(4) work with other public and private entities to develop and enhance returnship programs, opportunities, and activities throughout the State.

Sec. 12. VERMONT RETURNSHIP PROGRAM; APPROPRIATIONS

In fiscal year 2019 the amount of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Labor for the Vermont Returnship Program created in 10 V.S.A. § 545.

Sec. 13. GROWING THE SIZE AND QUALITY OF THE WORKFORCE

(a) Increasing participation. The Department of Labor and the Agencies of Commerce and Community Development, of Education, and of Human Services, in partnership with the State Workforce Development Board, shall:

(1) increase Vermonters' labor force participation by creating multitiered engagement, training, and support activities that help working-age Vermonters who are able to participate or to participate to a greater degree in the workforce;

(2) recruit and relocate new workers and employers to Vermont; and

(3) assist businesses in locating and retaining qualified workers.

(b) Methods. The Department of Labor and the Agencies of Commerce and Community Development, of Education, and of Human Services shall:

(1) engage regional and statewide stakeholders, including regional CTE centers, regional development corporations, and regional planning commissions, to identify needs and strategies, and define success;

(2) identify targets and methods of recruitment, relocation, retraining, and retention;

(3) leverage resources available in current State and federal programs to support more workers from within and outside Vermont entering and staying in the Vermont workforce;

(4) create metrics for tracking the success of outreach efforts and economic impact; and

(5) develop policies and identify tools that support a two-generation approach to successful employment, addressing the needs of children in the lives of working adults.

(c) Relocation assistance unit.

(1) The Department of Labor may develop a relocation assistance unit to assist resident jobseekers and prospective new Vermont workers with finding and securing employment opportunities in Vermont.

(2) If the Department develops the relocation assistance unit:

(A) In addition to providing employment matching and career navigation services, dedicated specialists shall provide individualized assistance and support to individuals looking to relocate to Vermont for employment.

(B) Support services may include specific assistance in researching, accessing, or making referrals to resources, information, or services related to the labor market, employment, training, transportation, housing, childcare, economic services, education, safety, or recreation.

(C) The Department shall access existing tools, resources, and organizations such as the State or local Chambers of Commerce, Parent Child Centers, Regional Development Corporations, the Vermont National Guard, and other One-Stop American Job Center Network partners to assist in providing relocation information and support.

(D) The Department shall offer the services available under this subsection to Vermont customers as it would to a nonVermont citizen customer.

(E)(i) The Department shall use State funds provided under this section to leverage federal Wagner-Peyser funds, and any other relevant source of federal funds, to deliver employment and relocation services.

(ii) The Department shall ensure that functions provided under this section do not jeopardize the use and continued eligibility for federal funding under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

(F) The Department shall ensure that the Agency of Commerce and Community Development has access to information, data, and customer feedback so that the Agency may better understand the impact of its recruitment efforts, messaging, and any other ThinkVermont MOVE activity it implements.

(d) Board authority; identifying potential incentives. The State Workforce Development Board may identify incentives to enable and encourage targeted populations to participate in the labor force, including unemployment insurance waivers, income tax reductions, exemption of State tax on Social Security, housing and transportation vouchers, greater access to mental health and addiction treatment, and tuition and training reimbursements. The Board shall notify the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Human Services of any findings or recommendations, as appropriate.

Sec. 14. 10 V.S.A. § 540 is amended to read:

§ 540. WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING LEADER

The Commissioner of Labor shall be the leader of workforce education and training in the State, and shall have the authority and responsibility for the coordination of workforce education and training within State government, including the following duties:

(1) Perform the following duties in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board:

* * *

(G) design and implement criteria and performance measures for workforce education and training activities; and

(H) establish goals for the integrated workforce education and training system; and

(I) with the assistance of the Secretaries of Commerce and Community Development, of Human Services, of Education, of Agriculture,

Food and Markets, and of Transportation and of the Commissioner of Public Safety, develop and implement a coordinated system to recruit, relocate, and train workers to ensure the labor force needs of Vermont's businesses are met.

* * *

(8) Coordinate intentional outreach and connections between students graduating from Vermont's colleges and universities and employment opportunities in Vermont.

* * *

* * * Accountability; Data Collection and Monitoring; Reporting * * *

Sec. 15. RESULTS-BASED MONITORING

(a)(1) The Department of Labor, with the assistance of the Government Accountability Committee and the State Workforce Development Board, shall develop a framework to evaluate workforce education, training, and support programs and services.

(2) The Department shall apply the framework to the State's workforce system inventory and shall distinguish programs and services based on method of delivery, customer, program administrator, goal, or other appropriate category.

(3) The framework shall:

(A) establish population-level indicators based on desired outcomes for the workforce development delivery system;

(B) along with workforce development network mapping work that the Board may pursue, support program and service alignment of State-grant-funded projects with the State Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Plan;

(C) align with the Board's vision;

(D) note performance measures that already exist in the workforce system and identify where State-specific measures would help monitor progress in achieving the State's goals; and

(E) identify gaps in service delivery and areas of duplication in services.

(b) The State Workforce Development Board shall:

(1) consider whether the information and data currently collected and reported throughout the workforce development system are useful;

(2) identify what information and data are not available or not readily accessible;

- (3) make its findings publicly available; and
- (4) recommend a process to improve the collection and reporting of data.

(c) The State Workforce Development Board may:

(1) create a process and a timeline to collect program-level data for the purposes of updating the State's workforce system inventory; and

(2) develop tools for program and service delivery providers that support continuous improvement using data-driven decision making, common information-sharing systems, and a customer-focused service delivery system.

Sec. 16. REPORTING

(a) On or before January 15, 2019, the State Workforce Development Board shall submit to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report that specifically addresses the implementation of each section of this act.

(b) On or before January 15, 2019, the Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Agency of Education and the State Workforce Development Board, shall report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs concerning:

(1) how to encourage more businesses to offer apprenticeships;

(2) how to encourage more labor force participation in apprenticeships; and

(3) of the myriad federal and private apprenticeship opportunities available, what additional opportunities in what industry sectors should be offered or enhanced in Vermont.

* * * WIOA Youth Funds * * *

Sec. 17. PROCESS FOR AWARDING WIOA YOUTH FUNDS

(a) On or before December 1, 2018, the Department of Labor shall review the current delivery of youth workforce investment activities funded by WIOA Youth Funds and consider whether more youth might be better served through awards or grants to youth service providers, consistent with section 123 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

(b)(1) If the Department decides not to provide directly some or all of the youth workforce investment activities, the State Workforce Development Board shall award grants or contracts for specific elements or activities on a competitive basis, consistent with 20 CFR 681.400.

(2) The providers of youth services shall meet criteria established in the State Plan and be able to meet performance accountability measures for the federally established primary indicators of performance for youth programs.

Sec. 18. TARGETED ENHANCED YOUTH WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM

(a) In fiscal year 2019 the amount of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Labor for the first year of a three-year project to contract with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps for the purpose of enhancing its workforce preparedness and on-the-job training programs, with special attention for at-risk youth 18 to 24 years of age.

(b) The programs funded through this section shall include classroom training at Vermont Technical College and shall focus on vocations where the Department and Vermont employers have identified a shortage of workers.

* * * Promoting Remote Workers and Remote Work Arrangements * * *

Sec. 19. 32 V.S.A. chapter 151, subchapter 11P is added to read:

Subchapter 11P. New Remote Worker Tax Credit

§ 5930pp. NEW REMOTE WORKER TAX CREDIT

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “New resident remote worker” means an individual who:

(A) is a full-time employee of a business with its domicile or primary place of business outside Vermont;

(B) becomes a full-time resident of this State on or after January 1, 2019; and

(C) performs the majority of his or her employment duties remotely from a home office or a co-working space located in this State.

(2) “New Vermont remote worker” means an individual who:

(A) becomes a full-time employee of a business with its domicile or primary place of business in this State on or after January 1, 2019; and

(B) performs the majority of his or her employment duties remotely from a home office or a co-working space located in this State.

(3) “Qualifying remote worker expenses” means the actual costs incurred by a new Vermont remote worker or a new resident remote worker for one or more of the following that are necessary to perform his or her employment duties:

(A) relocation to this State;

- (B) computer software and hardware;
- (C) broadband access or upgrade; and
- (D) membership in a co-working or similar space.

(b)(1) A new Vermont remote worker and a new resident remote worker shall be eligible for a nonrefundable credit against the income tax liability imposed under this chapter for qualifying remote worker expenses in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 per year for five years, and not to exceed \$10,000.00 per worker.

(2)(A) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall develop a process to certify new Vermont remote workers and new resident remote workers for eligibility for a credit under this section.

(B) Upon certifying that a new Vermont remote worker or new resident remote worker meets the eligibility requirements of this section and certifying his or her qualifying expenses incurred in the year, the Agency shall issue to the worker a credit certificate for the amount of his or her qualifying expenses, which the worker shall file with his or her tax return.

(3) The Agency shall have the authority to annually award not more than \$500,000.00 in credit certificates to new Vermont remote workers and to new resident remote workers on a first-come, first-served basis, as follows:

(A) not more than \$250,000.00 in total credits for new Vermont remote workers; and

(B) any remaining amount of the annual total for new resident remote workers.

(c) A new Vermont remote worker or new resident remote worker may:

(1) first claim a credit under this section in the year following the year in which he or she first qualifies as a new Vermont remote worker or new resident remote worker;

(2) claim an additional credit in each of the subsequent four tax years, provided he or she remains a resident of this State and a full-time remote worker; and

(3) carry forward the amount of any unused credit for five tax years.

(d) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall:

(1) promote awareness of the tax credit authorized in this section; and

(2) adopt measurable goals, performance measures that demonstrate results, and an audit strategy to assess the utilization and performance of the credit authorized in this section.

Sec. 20. IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT FOR
REMOTE WORK IN VERMONT; STUDY; REPORT

(a) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioners of Labor, of Public Service, and of Buildings and General Services and other interested stakeholders, shall identify and examine the infrastructure improvements and other support needed to enhance the ability of businesses to establish a remote presence in Vermont and to allow Vermonters and businesses developing from maker spaces, co-working spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces to work and provide services remotely.

(b) Based on his or her findings, and in consultation with the Commissioners of Labor, of Public Service, and of Buildings and General Services and other interested stakeholders, the Secretary shall design a program to address the needs identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Specifically, the program shall:

(1) address the infrastructure needs of remote workers and businesses developing from generator spaces;

(2) promote and facilitate the use of remote worksites and maker spaces, co-working spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces;

(3) encourage out-of-state companies to use remote workers in Vermont;

(4) reduce the administrative and regulatory burden on businesses employing remote workers in Vermont;

(5) increase the ease of start-up companies finding remote work or maker spaces, co-working spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces in the State; and

(6) support the interconnection of current and future maker spaces, co-working spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces in this State.

(d) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a written report detailing:

(1) his or her findings, program, and any recommendations for legislative action to implement the program; and

(2) any additional policy changes to improve the climate for remote workers, including zoning measures, insurance and liability issues, workforce training needs, broadband access, access to co-working spaces, and an assessment of environmental implications of working remotely.

Sec. 21. INTEGRATED PUBLIC-PRIVATE STATE WORKSITES

(a) The Secretary of Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, shall examine the potential for the State to establish remote worksites that are available for use by both State employees and remote workers in the private sector.

(b) The Secretary shall examine the feasibility of and potential funding models for the worksites, including the opportunity to provide at low or no cost co-working space within State buildings that are currently vacant or underutilized.

(c) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs detailing his or her findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

Sec. 22. BROADBAND AVAILABILITY FOR REMOTE WORKERS

On or before January 15, 2019, the Director of Telecommunications and Connectivity, in consultation with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, shall submit with the annual report required by 30 V.S.A. § 202e findings and recommendations concerning:

(1) the current availability of broadband service in municipal downtown centers that do, or could at reasonable cost, support one or more co-working spaces or similar venues for remote workers and small businesses; and

(2) strategies for expanding and enhancing broadband availability for such spaces.

* * * Workforce Development in Particular Sectors;
Television and Film Production * * *

Sec. 23. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; FILM AND TELEVISION
TRADES

(a) The Vermont Department of Labor, in partnership with the Vermont Film Institute, Vermont Technical College, and local institutes of higher education shall explore and pursue opportunities to access current federal ApprenticeshipUSA funds to develop and offer registered apprenticeships in the film and television production trades industry, including electrical work, lighting, set building, and art direction.

(b) Related instruction that is developed and administered as part of a registered apprenticeship program shall also provide the registered apprentice with college credit that is recognized by an accredited post-secondary institution in Vermont.

(c) The Department of Labor, in partnership with the Agency of Education and Agency of Commerce and Community development, shall:

(1) promote other work-based learning experiences, including internships, job shadowing, returnships, and on-the-job training, in the film and television production trades industry;

(2) build connections with and among industry professionals; and

(3) conduct outreach to middle school, high school, and postsecondary students.

* * * Workforce Development in Particular Sectors;
Green Energy and Technology * * *

Sec. 24. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; GREEN ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

The Department of Labor, in partnership with the Agency of Education, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Agency of Natural Resources, and interested stakeholders, shall:

(1) develop career pathways, beginning in middle school, that lead to employment in the green energy sector;

(2) work with employers in the green energy sector to explore opportunities to create registered apprenticeships,

(3) identify certifications and credentials that support workforce expansion in the green energy sector; and

(4) collaborate, to the extent possible, to create, fund, and offer instruction that leads industry recognized credentials in the green energy sector.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 25. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 16, 2018, pages 708-709 and March 20, 2018, page 719)

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following amendments thereto:

First: By striking out Sec. 3 in its entirety

Second: By striking out Sec. 9 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 9 to read:

Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 543 is amended to read:

§ 543. WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND; GRANT PROGRAMS

* * *

(g) Career Pathways. Programs that are funded under this section resulting in a credit, certificate, or credential shall demonstrate alignment with a Career Pathway.

(h) Expanding offerings. A regional career and technical education center that develops an adult technical education program of study using funding under this section shall:

(1) make the program materials available to other regional career and technical education centers and adult technical education programs;

(2) to the extent possible, align the program with subsequent programs offered through the Vermont State College System, the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, or an accredited independent college located in Vermont; and

(3) respond to current or projected occupational demands.

Third: By striking out Secs. 11–12 in their entirety

Fourth: In Sec. 13 by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c)

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 18 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 18 to read:

Sec. 18. TARGETED ENHANCED YOUTH WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM

(a) The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFPR) shall coordinate with the Department of Labor when granting to the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps the amounts appropriated to DFPR in fiscal year 2019 from the Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund.

(b) The Departments shall ensure that the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps uses the funds to enhance its workforce preparedness and on-the-job training programs, with special attention for at-risk youths 18 to 24 years of age.

(c) Programs funded pursuant to this section may include classroom training at Vermont Technical College that focuses on vocations where the Department and Vermont employers have identified a shortage of workers.

And by renumbering the sections of the bill to be numerically correct

(Committee vote: 5-0-2)

House Proposals of Amendment

S. 105

An act relating to consumer justice enforcement.

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

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. chapter 152 is added to read:

CHAPTER 152. MODEL STATE CONSUMER JUSTICE ENFORCEMENT ACT; STANDARD-FORM CONTRACTS

§ 6055. UNCONSCIONABLE TERMS IN STANDARD-FORM CONTRACTS PROHIBITED

(a) Unconscionable terms. There is a rebuttable presumption that the following contractual terms are substantively unconscionable when included in a standard-form contract to which one of the parties to the contract is an individual and that individual does not draft the contract:

(1) A requirement that resolution of legal claims take place in an inconvenient venue. As used in this subdivision, "inconvenient venue" includes for State law claims a place other than the state in which the individual resides or the contract was consummated, and for federal law claims a place other than the federal judicial district where the individual resides or the contract was consummated. Inconvenient venue shall not include the State or federal judicial district in which the individual suffered injury during the performance of the contract.

(2) A waiver of the individual's right to assert claims or seek remedies provided by State or federal statute.

(3) A waiver of the individual's right to seek punitive damages as provided by law.

(4) Pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 465, a provision that limits the time in which an action may be brought under the contract or that waives the statute of limitations.

(5) A requirement that the individual pay fees and costs to bring a legal claim substantially in excess of the fees and costs that this State's courts require to bring such a State law claim or that federal courts require to bring such a federal law claim.

(b) Relation to common law and the Uniform Commercial Code.

(1) In determining whether the terms described in subsection (a) of this section are unenforceable, a court shall consider the principles that normally guide courts in this State in determining whether unconscionable terms are enforceable. Additionally, the common law and Uniform Commercial Code shall guide courts in determining the enforceability of unfair terms not specifically identified in subsection (a) of this section.

(2) When a party claims or it appears to the court that the contract or any clause within the contract is unconscionable, the parties shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to present evidence regarding its commercial setting, purpose, and effect to aid the court in making a determination.

(c) Severability. If a court finds that a standard-form contract contains an unconscionable term, the court shall:

(1) so limit the application of the unconscionable term or the clause containing that term as to avoid any illegal or unconscionable result; or

(2) refuse to enforce the entire contract or the specific part, clause, or provision containing the unconscionable term.

(d) Unfair and deceptive act and practice.

(1) In an underlying legal dispute between the drafting and non-drafting parties in which the drafting party seeks to enforce one or more terms identified in subsection (a) of this section, and upon a finding that such terms are actually unconscionable, the court may also find that the drafting party has thereby committed an unfair and deceptive practice in violation of section 2453 of this title and may order up to \$1,000.00 in statutory damages per violation and an award of reasonable costs and attorney's fees.

(2) Each term the drafting party seeks to enforce that is found by the court to be actually unconscionable may constitute a separate violation of this section.

(e) Limitation on applicability. This section shall not apply to contracts to which one party is:

(1) regulated by the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation; or

(2) a financial institution as defined by 8 V.S.A. § 11101(32).

(f) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the application of 12 V.S.A. § 1037 (acceptance of inherent risks).

Sec. 1a. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The General Assembly acknowledges that outdoor recreation is an important part of Vermont's economy and culture that encourages healthy communities and individuals, increases our connection to nature, enhances the Vermont lifestyle, and supports the attraction of high-quality employers and a sustainable workforce in all economic sectors. It is not the intent of the General Assembly to change the way courts allocate responsibility for the inherent risks of any outdoor recreational activity or sport.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

S. 150

An act relating to automated license plate recognition systems.

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

Sec. 1. EXTENSION OF SUNSET

Subsection (b) of 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 3, as amended by 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 32, Sec. 1, as further amended by 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 169, Sec. 6, is further amended to read:

(b) Secs. 1–2 of this act, 23 V.S.A. §§ 1607 and 1608, shall be repealed on July 1, ~~2018~~ 2019.

Sec. 2. AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEMS;
AUDITOR EXAMINATION OF COMPLIANCE

(a) On or before January 15, 2019, with respect to data collected by Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems, the Auditor of Accounts (Auditor) shall:

(1) examine requests for “historical data” as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1607 that resulted in a release of historical data to the requester from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018 by the Vermont Intelligence Center (VIC), and shall examine such additional records as may be required, to enable the Auditor to determine whether the request and the release complied with requirements of 23 V.S.A. § 1607(c)(2); and

(2) submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Transportation summarizing the findings of the examination required under this subsection.

(b) Notwithstanding any exemption under the Public Records Act (PRA) or other provision of State law to the contrary, a public agency shall release to the Auditor records that the Auditor may need in order to conduct the examination required under subsection (a) of this section. After receiving any record that is exempt from public inspection and copying under the PRA, the Auditor shall have the authority and the obligation to assert the PRA exemption if the Auditor receives a request to inspect or copy the record.

Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 1607(e) is amended to read:

(e) Oversight; rulemaking.

(1) The Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the Department of Motor Vehicles, shall establish a review process to ensure that information obtained through use of ALPR systems is used only for the purposes permitted by this section. The Department of Public Safety shall report the results of this review annually on or before January 15 to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary and on Transportation. The report shall contain the following information based on prior calendar year data:

(A) the total number of ALPR units being operated by government agencies in the State, the number of such units that are stationary, and the number of units submitting data to the statewide ALPR database;

* * *

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

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.

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

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

Subchapter 4. Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program

§ 4651. WHOLESALE 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) recommend a charge per prescription or another method of support 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 on Ways and Means 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. PROGRAM FINANCING

The Agency of Human Services shall not implement the wholesale prescription drug importation program until the General Assembly enacts legislation establishing a charge per prescription or another method of financial support for the program.

§ 4655. IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS

Upon the last to occur of the General Assembly enacting a method of financial support pursuant to section 4654 of this chapter and receipt of 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. 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.

§ 4656. ANNUAL REPORTING

(a) Annually on or before January 15, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the House Committees on Health Care and Ways and Means 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.

Sec. 2. WHOLESale IMPORTATION PROGRAM; DESIGN CONTINGENT ON FUNDING

The Agency of Human Services shall be required to design the wholesale prescription drug importation program described in Sec. 1 of this act only to

the extent that funds are appropriated for this purpose in the budget bill enacted by the General Assembly for fiscal year 2019 or are otherwise made available.

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

An act relating to the wholesale importation of prescription drugs into Vermont.

S. 179

An act relating to community justice centers.

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

Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 107 is amended to read:

§ 107. OFFENDER AND INMATE RECORDS; CONFIDENTIALITY; EXCEPTIONS; CORRECTIONS

(a)(1) The Commissioner shall adopt a rule pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 defining what are “offender and inmate records;” ~~as that phrase is produced or acquired by the Department.~~

(2) As used in this section, the phrase “offender and inmate records” means the records defined under the rule required under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(b) Offender and inmate records ~~maintained by the Department~~ are exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential, except that the Department:

(1) Shall release or permit inspection of such records if required under federal or State law, including 42 U.S.C. §§ 10805 and 10806 (Protection and Advocacy Systems).

(2) Shall release or permit inspection of such records pursuant to a court order for good cause shown or, in the case of an offender or inmate seeking records relating to him or her in litigation, in accordance with discovery rules.

(3) Shall release or permit inspection of such records to a State or federal prosecutor as part of a criminal investigation pursuant to a court order issued ex parte if the court finds that the records may be relevant to the investigation. The information in the records may be used for any lawful purpose but shall not otherwise be made public.

(4) Shall release or permit inspection of such records to the Department for Children and Families for the purpose of child protection, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

(5) Shall release or permit inspection of designated specific categories or types of offender and inmate records to specific persons, or to any person, in accordance with rules a rule that the Commissioner shall adopt pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, provided that the Commissioner shall redact any information that may compromise the safety of any person, or that is required by law to be redacted, prior to releasing or permitting inspection of such records under the rules rule. The Commissioner shall authorize release or inspection of offender and inmate records under these rules rule shall provide for disclosure of a category or type of record in either of the following circumstances:

(A) When when the public interest served by disclosure of a record outweighs the privacy, security, or other interest in keeping the record confidential; or

(B) To in order to provide an offender or inmate access to offender and inmate records relating to him or her if access is not otherwise guaranteed under this subsection, unless providing such access would reveal information that, unless:

(i) the category or type of record is confidential or exempt from disclosure under a law other than this section;

(ii) providing access would unreasonably interfere with the Department's ability to perform its functions, including unreasonable interference due to the staff time or other cost associated with providing a category or type of record; or

(iii) providing access may compromise the health, safety, security, or rehabilitation of the offender or inmate or of another person.

(c)(1) The rules may specify circumstances under which the Department Unless otherwise provided in this section or required by law, the rule required under subdivision (b)(5) of this section:

(A) shall specify the categories or types of records to be disclosed and to whom they are to be disclosed, and shall not provide for any exceptions to disclosure of records that fall within these categories or types except for redactions required by law;

(B) shall specify which categories or types of records relating to an offender or inmate shall be provided to the offender or inmate as a matter of course and which shall be provided only upon request;

(C) may limit the offender's or inmate's access to include only records produced or acquired in the year preceding the date of the request;

(D) may limit the number of requests by an offender or inmate that

will be fulfilled per calendar year, ~~as long as provided that the Department fulfills at least one request~~ two requests by the offender or inmate per calendar year excluding any release of records ordered by a court, and at least one additional request in the same calendar year limited to records not in existence at the time of the original request or not within the scope of the original request. The rules also;

(E) may specify circumstances when ~~the~~ an offender's or inmate's right of access will be limited to an inspection overseen by an agent or employee of the Department;

(F) may provide that the Department has no obligation to provide an offender or inmate a record previously provided if he or she still has access to the record. The rules; and

(G) shall reflect the Department's obligation not to withhold a record in its entirety on the basis that it contains some confidential or exempt content, to redact such content, and to make the redacted record available.

(2) The Department shall provide records available to an offender or inmate under the rule free of charge, except that if the offender or inmate is responsible for the loss or destruction of a record previously provided, the Department may charge him or her for a replacement copy at \$0.01 per page.

~~(e)~~(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 3 (Public Records Act) that govern the time periods for a public agency to respond to a request for a public record and rights of appeal, the Commissioner shall adopt a rule pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 governing response and appeal periods and appeal rights in connection with a request by an offender or inmate to access records relating to him or her maintained by the Department. The rule shall provide for a final exhaustion of administrative appeals no later than 45 days from the Department's receipt of the initial request.

~~(d)~~(e) An offender or inmate may request that the Department correct a fact in a record maintained by the Department that is material to his or her rights or status, except for a determination of fact that resulted from a hearing or other proceeding that afforded the offender or inmate notice and opportunity to be heard on the determination. The rule required under subsection ~~(e)~~(d) of this section shall reference that requests for such corrections are handled in accordance with the Department's grievance process. If the Department issues a final decision denying a request under this subsection, the offender or inmate may appeal the decision to the Civil Division of the Superior Court pursuant to Rule 74 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. The Court shall not set aside the Department's decision unless it is clearly erroneous.

Sec. 2. REPEAL

In 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 7, as amended by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. 10, subsections (b)–(e) and (g) hereby are repealed.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION PROVISION

(a) This act shall take effect on passage.

(b) Prior to the Commissioner of Corrections' (Commissioner) adopting a rule pursuant to the rulemaking mandates of 28 V.S.A. § 107(a) and (b)(5) as amended in Sec. 1 of this act, the Department of Corrections (Department) shall keep confidential "offender and inmate records" as defined in Department policies or directives in effect prior to the effective date of the rule, except that the Department:

(1) shall apply the exceptions to the confidentiality of offender and inmate records that exist under 28 V.S.A. § 107(b)(1)–(4);

(2) shall apply the exceptions to the confidentiality of offender and inmate records that exist under directives, policies, and practices adopted by the Department prior to the effective date of the rule, and in so doing shall apply the redaction requirements of 28 V.S.A. § 107(b)(5) as amended in Sec. 1 of this act; and

(3) may rely upon the limitations on offender and inmate access to records, and the provisions related to charging for copies of such records, in 28 V.S.A. § 107(c)(1)(C)–(F) and (c)(2) as amended in Sec. 1 of this act.

(c) On or before September 15, 2018, the Commissioner shall prefile rules with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules in accordance with the rulemaking requirements of 28 V.S.A. § 107, as amended in Sec. 1 of this act. The Commissioner shall update the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee on the status of its efforts to adopt the rules at the Oversight Committee's first meeting on or after September 15, 2018.

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

An act relating to offender and inmate records.

S. 180

An act relating to the Vermont Fair Repair Act.

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) The repair of modern electronic products, even for such minor repairs as replacing a battery or screen, often becomes difficult or impossible due to manufacturers' limitation of access to information or parts to effect those repairs.

(2) Manufacturers may limit access to only those customers who are under warranty; may refuse access 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. 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 business and consumer groups with an interest in consumer electronic products.

(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) environmental and economic costs of electronic waste;

(5) legal issues, including intellectual property and trade secrets, potential for alignment or conflict with federal law, and litigation risks;

(6) privacy and security features in electronic products; and

(7) any other issues the Task Force considers relevant and necessary to accomplish its work.

(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 January 15, 2019, 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 15, 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 January 15, 2019.

(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.

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment

S. 203

An act relating to systemic improvements of the mental health system

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment to the House proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 4. WAIVER OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIREMENTS

Notwithstanding any provisions of 18 V.S.A. chapter 221, subchapter 5 to the contrary:

(1) the implementation of renovations at the Brattleboro Retreat as authorized in the fiscal year 2019 capital budget adjustment bill shall not be considered a “new health care project” for which a certificate of need is required; and

(2) the proposal by the University of Vermont Health Network to expand psychiatric inpatient capacity at the Central Vermont Medical Center campus shall be exempt from the requirement to secure a conceptual development phase certificate of need pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9434(c) if the University of Vermont Health Network:

(A) consults with the Secretary of Human Services in identifying the appropriate number and type of additional inpatient beds needed in the State;

(B) ensures that the planning process for designing its proposed expansion of inpatient psychiatric bed capacity at the Central Vermont Medical Center campus includes broad stakeholder input, including from patients and providers; and

(C) works with the Green Mountain Care Board for ongoing oversight of expenditures.

Second: In Sec. 9, amending 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 82, Sec. 3(c), by striking out the third sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

The evaluation process shall include such stakeholder involvement in working toward an articulation of a common, long-term vision of full integration of mental health services within a comprehensive and holistic health care system.

House Proposals of Amendment

S. 206

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

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill 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 Finance 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 finance lease for the use of a credit card terminal shall accurately disclose:

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

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

(3) whether the consumer has an option to purchase the credit card terminal that is the subject of the finance lease.

§ 2482i. CREDIT CARD TERMINAL; FINANCE LEASE PROVISIONS

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

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

(2) Finance lease; costs; disclosure. The finance lease shall specify:

(A) the terms of the finance lease;

(B) the total price of the finance lease;

(C) the total monthly payment due, including any recurring monthly fees or charges; and

(D) any other penalties, charges, or fees and the conditions under which they may be incurred.

(3) Relationship to processing services and fees. If a lessee who enters into a finance lease for a credit card terminal also agrees to receive bundled services for the terminal, such as credit card processing services, from the lessor or a business affiliated with the lessor, either the finance lease or a separate agreement for the bundled services shall include an itemized statement of the terms, costs, fees, and potential penalties for each service, as specified in subdivision (2) of this section.

(4) Contact information. The finance lease shall clearly and conspicuously identify the lessor of the credit card terminal and the name, mailing address, telephone number, email address or website, 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 finance lease.

(5) Prohibited provisions.

(A) A provision of a finance lease that permits or requires a dispute to be resolved in a judicial forum that would not otherwise have jurisdiction over the lessee is against public policy and unenforceable.

(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.

(6) Duty to retain and provide finance lease; right to cancel.

(A) A lessor shall provide a copy of the executed finance lease to the lessee and shall retain a written or electronic copy of the finance lease for not less than four years after the lease terminates.

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

(C) If the lessee exercises his or her right to cancel:

(i) the lessor may retain any payments made by the lessee after the lessor delivered a copy of the executed finance lease;

(ii) the lessor may impose a reasonable cancellation fee, not to exceed the total monthly payment amount specified in subdivision (2)(C) of this section.

§ 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. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

S. 222

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill 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 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.

* * *

(i) Notwithstanding subdivision (c)(1) of this section, the diversion program may accept cases from the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 656 or 18 V.S.A. § 4230b. The confidentiality provisions of this section shall become effective when a notice of violation is issued under 7 V.S.A. § 656(b) or 18 V.S.A. § 4230b(b), and shall remain in effect unless the person fails to register with or complete the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program.

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. The 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.

* * *

(5) All information gathered in the course of the adult diversion process shall be held strictly confidential and shall not be released without the participant's prior consent (except that research and reports that do not ~~require~~ or establish the identity of individual participants are allowed).

* * *

(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 subdivision (e)(7), 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; ~~and~~

(D) the participant does not owe restitution related to the case under a contract executed with the Restitution Unit.

(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. 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.

* * *

(k) ~~Subject to the approval of the~~ The Attorney General, in consultation with the Vermont Association of Court Diversion Programs, may develop and administer programs to assist persons under this section charged with delinquent, criminal, and civil offenses.

(l) Notwithstanding subdivision (e)(1) of this section, the diversion program may accept cases from the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 656 or 18 V.S.A. § 4230b. The confidentiality provisions of this section shall become effective when a notice of violation is issued under 7 V.S.A. § 656(b) or 18 V.S.A. § 4230b(b), and shall remain in effect unless the person fails to register with or complete the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program.

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. 15 V.S.A. § 554 is amended to read:

§ 554. DECREES NISI

(a) A decree of divorce from the bonds of matrimony in the first instance, shall be a decree nisi and shall become absolute at the expiration of ~~three months~~ 90 days from the entry thereof but, in its discretion, the court which that grants the divorce may fix an earlier date upon which the decree shall

become absolute. If one of the parties dies prior to the expiration of the nisi period, the decree shall be deemed absolute immediately prior to death.

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

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

Sec. 15. 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 to a registered caregiver who provides marijuana to a registered patient pursuant to chapter 86 of this title.

Sec. 16. 20 V.S.A. § 3903 is amended to read:

§ 3903. ANIMAL SHELTERS AND RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

(a) [Repealed.]

(b) Animal intake. An animal shelter or rescue organization ~~under this chapter shall not accept an animal unless the person transferring the animal to the shelter provides~~ as defined by section 3901 of this title shall make every effort to collect the following information about an animal it accepts: the name and address of the person transferring the animal and, if known, the name of the animal, its vaccination history, and other information concerning the background, temperament, and health of the animal.

(c) Nonprofit status. A rescue organization under this chapter shall be recognized and approved as a nonprofit organization under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

(d) Immunity from liability. Notwithstanding section 3901a of this title, any animal shelter or rescue organization assisting law enforcement in an animal cruelty investigation or seizure that, in good faith, provides care and treatment to an animal involved in the investigation or seizure shall not be held liable for civil damages by the owner of the animal unless the actions of the shelter or organization constitute gross negligence.

Sec. 17. 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. 18. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 15 shall take effect on July 2, 2018.

S. 262

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to the Medicaid program and the Department of Vermont Health Access.

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

* * * Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities * * *

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1902 is amended to read:

§ 1902. QUALIFICATION FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

(a) In determining whether a person is medically indigent, the Secretary of Human Services shall prescribe and use an income standard and requirements for eligibility ~~which~~ that will permit the receipt of federal matching funds under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

(b) Workers with disabilities whose income is less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level shall be eligible for Medicaid. The income also must not exceed the Medicaid protected income level for one or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment level for two, whichever is higher, after disregarding ~~all~~ the earnings of the working individual with disabilities, ~~any~~ Social Security disability insurance benefits, ~~and~~ including Social Security retirement benefits converted automatically from Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), if applicable; any veteran's disability benefits; and, if the working individual with disabilities is married, all income of the spouse. Earnings of the working individual with disabilities shall be documented by evidence of Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax payments, Self-Employment Contributions Act tax payments, or a written business plan approved and supported by a third-party investor or funding source. The resource limit for this program shall be \$10,000.00 for an individual and

\$15,000.00 for a couple at the time of enrollment in the program. Assets attributable to earnings made after enrollment in the program shall be disregarded.

* * * Eligibility for Health Vermonters and VPharm * * *

Sec. 2. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 79, Sec. 53(d), as amended by 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. E.307, 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. E.307, 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. E.307.3, and 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. E.307, is further amended to read:

(d) Secs. 31 (Healthy Vermonters) and 32 (VPharm) shall take effect on January 1, 2014, except that the Agency of Human Services may continue to calculate household income under the rules of the Vermont Health Access Plan after that date if the system for calculating modified adjusted gross income for the Healthy Vermonters and VPharm programs is not operational by that date, but not later than ~~December 31, 2018~~ the implementation of Vermont's Integrated Eligibility system.

* * * Increasing Income Threshold for Dr. Dynasaur Premiums * * *

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 1901(c) is amended to read:

(c) The Secretary may charge a monthly premium, in amounts set by the General Assembly, per family for pregnant women and children eligible for medical assistance under Sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), (VI), and (VII) of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, whose family income exceeds ~~185~~ 195 percent of the federal poverty level, as permitted under section 1902(r)(2) of that act. Fees collected under this subsection shall be credited to the State Health Care Resources Fund established in section 1901d of this title and shall be available to the Agency to offset the costs of providing Medicaid services. Any co-payments, coinsurance, or other cost sharing to be charged shall also be authorized and set by the General Assembly.

* * * Provider Taxes * * *

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 1958 is amended to read:

§ 1958. APPEALS

(a) Any health care provider may submit a written request to the Department for reconsideration of the determination of the assessment within 20 days of notice of the determination. The request shall be accompanied by written materials setting forth the basis for reconsideration. If requested, the Department shall hold a hearing within ~~20~~ 90 days from the date on which the reconsideration request was received. The Department shall mail written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing to the health care provider at least ~~10~~ 30 days before the date of the hearing. On the basis of the evidence

submitted to the Department or presented at the hearing, the Department shall reconsider and may adjust the assessment. Within 20 days of following the hearing, the Department shall provide notice in writing to the health care provider of the final determination of the amount it is required to pay based on any adjustments made by it. Proceedings under this section are not subject to the requirements of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

* * *

Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 1959(a)(3) is amended to read:

(3) Ambulance agencies shall remit the assessment amount to the Department annually on or before ~~March 31, beginning with March 31, 2017~~ June 1.

* * * Medicaid; Asset Verification * * *

Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 403 is added to read:

§ 403. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO FURNISH INFORMATION

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Bank” shall have the same meaning as in 8 V.S.A. § 11101.

(2) “Broker-dealer” shall have the same meaning as in 9 V.S.A. § 5102.

(3) “Credit union” shall have the same meaning as in 8 V.S.A. § 30101.

(4) “Financial institution” means any financial services provider, including a bank, credit union, broker-dealer, investment advisor, mutual fund, or investment company.

(5) “Investment advisor” shall have the same meaning as in 9 V.S.A. § 5102.

(6) “Mutual fund” shall have the same meaning as in 8 V.S.A. § 3461.

(b) A financial institution, when requested by the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, shall furnish to the Commissioner or to an agent of the Department of Vermont Health Access information in the possession of the financial institution with reference to any person or his or her spouse who is applying for or is receiving assistance or benefits from the Department of Vermont Health Access. The Department of Vermont Health Access shall issue instructions to the financial institution detailing the nature of the request and the information necessary to satisfy the request.

(c) A financial institution shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability for actions taken in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 7. ASSET VERIFICATION; NOTICE TO APPLICANTS AND BENEFICIARIES

(a)(1) Each application for assistance under the Medicaid Long-Term Care or Medicaid for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled program shall contain a form of authorization, executed by the applicant or beneficiary, granting authority for the Department of Vermont Health Access and its agents to obtain financial information about the applicant's or beneficiary's assets from financial institutions in order to verify the applicant's or beneficiary's eligibility for the applicable program. The Department or its agent shall obtain the applicant's or beneficiary's authorization prior to requesting his or her financial information from any financial institution.

(2) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall collaborate with the Office of the Health Care Advocate to ensure that applicants to and beneficiaries of the Medicaid Long-Term Care and Medicaid for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled programs receive notice written in plain and accessible language explaining the Department's electronic asset verification system.

(b) In the event that the financial information of an applicant's or beneficiary's spouse is required in order to determine the applicant's or beneficiary's eligibility for the Medicaid Long-Term Care or Medicaid for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled program, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall provide written notice regarding the asset verification process to the spouse and shall obtain the spouse's written authorization for the Department and its agents to obtain his or her financial information from financial institutions prior to requesting the spouse's financial information from any financial institution. The Department may determine an applicant or beneficiary to be ineligible for Medicaid if the applicant's or beneficiary's spouse refuses to provide, or revokes, his or her consent.

Sec. 8. 33 V.S.A. § 404 is added to read:

§ 404. STATE AGENCIES TO FURNISH INFORMATION

(a) Any governmental official or agency in the State, when requested by the Department of Vermont Health Access, shall furnish to the Department information in the official's or agency's possession with reference to aid given or money paid or to be paid to any person or person's spouse who is applying for or is receiving assistance or benefits from the Department of Vermont Health Access.

(b) The Commissioner of Taxes, when requested by the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, and unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, shall compare the information furnished by an applicant or recipient of assistance with the State income tax returns filed by such person and shall report his or

her findings to the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access. Each application for assistance shall contain a form of consent, executed by the applicant, granting permission to the Commissioner of Taxes to disclose such information to the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access.

(c) On the first day of each month, each unit of the Superior Court shall provide to the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access a list of all estates, including testate, intestate, and small estates, opened during the previous calendar month within the jurisdiction of that unit's Probate Division. The list shall contain the following information for each estate:

- (1) the decedent's full name;
- (2) the decedent's date of birth;
- (3) the decedent's date of death;
- (4) the docket number;
- (5) the date on which the estate was opened; and
- (6) the full name and contact information for the executor or administrator or his or her legal representative.

Sec. 9. RULEMAKING

The Vermont Supreme Court may promulgate rules under 12 V.S.A. § 1 to implement the provisions of Sec. 8, 33 V.S.A. § 404, of this act.

Sec. 10. 8 V.S.A. § 10204 is amended to read:

§ 10204. EXCEPTIONS

This subchapter does not prohibit any of the activities listed in this section. This section shall not be construed to require any financial institution to make any disclosure not otherwise required by law. This section shall not be construed to require or encourage any financial institution to alter any procedures or practices not inconsistent with this subchapter. This section shall not be construed to expand or create any authority in any person or entity other than a financial institution.

* * *

(26) Disclosure of information sought by the Department of Vermont Health Access or its agents pursuant to the Department's authority and obligations under 33 V.S.A. § 403.

* * * Maximum Out-of-Pocket Prescription Drug Limit for Bronze Plans * * *

Sec. 11. 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 165, Sec. 6(f), as amended by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 25, Sec. 3, is further amended to read:

(f)(4) The Director of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Administration, in consultation with the Department of Vermont Health Access and the Office of Legislative Council, shall determine whether the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has the authority under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152 (ACA), to waive annual limitations on out-of-pocket expenses or actuarial value requirements for bronze-level plans, or both. On or before October 1, 2016, the Director shall present information to the Health Reform Oversight Committee regarding the authority of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to waive out-of-pocket limits and actuarial value requirements, the estimated costs of applying for a waiver, and alternatives to a waiver for preserving the out-of-pocket prescription drug limit established in 8 V.S.A. § 4089i.

~~(2) If the Director of Health Care Reform determines that the Secretary has the necessary authority, then on or before March 1, 2019, the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, with the Director's assistance, shall apply for a waiver of the cost-sharing or actuarial value limitations, or both, in order to preserve the availability of bronze-level qualified health benefit plans that meet Vermont's out-of-pocket prescription drug limit established in 8 V.S.A. § 4089i.~~

Sec. 12. 33 V.S.A. § 1814 is added to read:

§ 1814. MAXIMUM OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT FOR PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS IN BRONZE PLANS

(a)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of 8 V.S.A. § 4089i to the contrary, the Green Mountain Care Board may approve modifications to the out-of-pocket prescription drug limit established in 8 V.S.A. § 4089i for one or more bronze-level plans.

(2) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall certify at least two standard bronze-level plans that include the out-of-pocket prescription drug limit established in 8 V.S.A. § 4089i, as long as the plans comply with federal requirements. Notwithstanding any provision of 8 V.S.A. § 4089i to the contrary, the Department may certify one or more bronze-level qualified health benefit plans with modifications to the out-of-pocket prescription drug limit established in 8 V.S.A. § 4089i.

(b)(1) For each individual enrolled in a bronze-level qualified health benefit plan for the previous two plan years who had out-of-pocket prescription drug expenditures that met the out-of-pocket prescription drug limit established in 8 V.S.A. § 4089i for the most recent plan year for which information is available, the health insurer shall, absent an alternative plan

selection or plan cancellation by the individual, automatically reenroll the individual in a bronze-level qualified health plan for the forthcoming plan year with an out-of-pocket prescription drug limit at or below the limit established in 8 V.S.A. § 4089i.

(2) Prior to reenrolling an individual in a plan pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the health insurer shall notify the individual of the insurer's intent to reenroll the individual automatically in a bronze-level qualified health plan for the forthcoming plan year with an out-of-pocket prescription drug limit at or below the limit established in 8 V.S.A. § 4089i unless the individual contacts the insurer to select a different plan and of the availability of bronze-level plans with higher out-of-pocket prescription drug limits. The health insurer shall collaborate with the Department of Vermont Health Access and the Office of the Health Care Advocate as to the notification's form and content.

* * * Human Services Board; Fair Hearings * * *

Sec. 13. 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.

* * *

(h)(1) Notwithstanding subsections (d) and (f) of this section, the Secretary shall review all Board decisions and orders concerning TANF, TANF-EA, Office of Child Support Cases, Medicaid, and the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange. The Secretary shall:

(A) adopt a Board decision or order, except that the Secretary may

reverse or modify a Board decision or order if:

(i) the Board's findings of fact lack any support in the record; or

(ii) the decision or order ~~implicates the validity or applicability of any Agency misinterprets or misapplies State or federal policy or rule-;~~ and

(B) issue a written decision setting forth the legal, factual, or policy basis for reversing or modifying a Board decision or order.

* * *

(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.

Sec. 14. APPEAL OF MEDICAID COVERED SERVICE DECISIONS; FAIR HEARING; RULEMAKING

The Agency of Human Services shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 establishing a process by which the Agency shall ensure that a Medicaid beneficiary who files a request for a fair hearing with the Human Services Board prior to exhausting the Department of Vermont Health Access's internal appeals process receives consideration by the Department as though the beneficiary had properly filed an internal appeal and, if the internal appeal results in an adverse determination, that the Department shall provide to the beneficiary appropriate assistance with filing a timely request for a fair hearing with the Human Services Board if the beneficiary wishes to do so.

* * * Repeal * * *

Sec. 15. REPEAL

33 V.S.A. § 2010 (actual price disclosure and certification of prescription drugs) is repealed.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except:

(1) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 5 (ambulance agency provider tax) shall take effect on passage and apply retroactively to January 1, 2018; and

(2) In Sec. 8, 33 V.S.A. § 404(c) (monthly list of new probate estates) shall take effect on October 1, 2018.

S. 273

An act relating to miscellaneous law enforcement amendments.

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

* * * Training * * *

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2351 is amended to read:

§ 2351. CREATION AND PURPOSE OF COUNCIL

* * *

(b) The Council is created to encourage and assist municipalities, counties, and governmental agencies of this State in their efforts to improve the quality of law enforcement and citizen protection by maintaining a uniform standard of ~~recruitment~~ recruit and in-service training for law enforcement officers.

* * *

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 2351a is amended to read:

§ 2351a. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Executive officer” means the highest-ranking law enforcement officer of a law enforcement agency.

(2) “Law enforcement agency” means the employer of a law enforcement officer.

(3) “Law enforcement officer” means an employee of the Vermont Police Academy as permitted under section 2356 of this chapter; 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.

* * *

Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 2356 is added to read:

§ 2356. VERMONT POLICE ACADEMY; LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(a) A person employed by the Vermont Police Academy who is certified as a law enforcement officer under this chapter and who maintains that certification shall be a law enforcement officer with statewide law enforcement authority.

(b) The ability of a person to be a certified law enforcement officer solely through his or her employment at the Vermont Police Academy pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall not qualify that person for Group C membership in the Vermont State Retirement System.

Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 2352 is amended to read:

§ 2352. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

(a)(1) The Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall consist of:

(A) the Commissioners of Public Safety, of Corrections, of Motor Vehicles, and of Fish and Wildlife, and of Mental Health;

(B) the Attorney General;

(C) a member of the Vermont Troopers' Association or its successor entity, elected by its membership;

(D) a member of the Vermont Police Association, elected by its membership; and

(E) five additional members appointed by the Governor.

(i) The Governor's appointees shall provide broad representation of all aspects of law enforcement and the public in Vermont on the Council.

(ii) The Governor shall solicit recommendations for appointment from the Vermont State's Attorneys Association, the Vermont State's Sheriffs Association, the Vermont Police Chiefs Association, and the Vermont Constables Association a member of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont, appointed by the President of the Association;

(F) a member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, appointed by the President of the Association;

(G) a law enforcement officer appointed by the President of the Vermont State Employees Association;

(H) an employee of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, appointed by the Executive Director of the League;

(I) an employee of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, appointed by the Executive Director of the Center; and

(J) three public members who shall not be law enforcement officers or current legislators or otherwise be employed in the criminal justice system, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.

(2) A member's term shall be three years.

* * *

(c) The public members of the Council set forth in subdivision (a)(1)(J) of this section shall be entitled to receive no per diem compensation for their services, but the other members of the Council shall not be entitled to such compensation; provided, however, that all members of the Council shall be allowed their actual and necessary entitled to receive reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses under this subsection shall be made as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 from monies appropriated to the Council.

* * *

Sec. 4a. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION TO ADDRESS NEW COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Any existing member of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council who will serve on the Council under its new membership as set forth in Sec. 4 of this act may serve the remainder of his or her term in effect immediately prior to the effective date of Sec. 4.

Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2355 is amended to read:

§ 2355. COUNCIL POWERS AND DUTIES

(a) The Council shall adopt rules with respect to:

(1) the approval, or revocation thereof, of law enforcement officer training schools and off-site training programs, which shall include rules to identify and implement alternate routes to certification aside from the training provided at the Vermont Police Academy;

* * *

(b)(1) The Council shall conduct and administer training schools and offer courses of instruction for law enforcement officers and other criminal justice personnel. The Council shall offer courses of instruction for law enforcement officers in multiple regions of the State and shall strive to replace overnight courses with these regional trainings whenever possible.

(2) The Council may also offer the basic officer's course for ~~pre-service~~ preservice students and educational outreach courses for the public, including firearms safety and use of force.

* * *

Sec. 6. COUNCIL; REPORT ON TRAINING ALTERNATIVES

On or before January 15, 2019, the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations regarding the Council's identification and implementation of alternate routes to certification and its plan to replace some of its overnight law enforcement training requirements at the Robert H. Wood, Jr. Criminal Justice and Fire Service Training Center of Vermont (Police Academy) with training in multiple regions of the State, in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 2355 in Sec. 5 of this act. The report shall specifically address any budgetary implications of the provisions of Sec. 5.

Sec. 7. 20 V.S.A. § 2358 is amended to read:

§ 2358. MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS; DEFINITIONS

* * *

(b) The Council shall offer or approve basic training and annual in-service training for each of the following three levels of law enforcement officer certification in accordance with the scope of practice for each level, and shall determine by rule the scope of practice for each level in accordance with the provisions of this section:

(1) Level I certification.

* * *

(2) Level II certification.

* * *

(3) Level III certification.

* * *

(c)(1) All programs required by this section shall be approved by the Council.

(2) The Council shall structure its programs so that an officer certified

as a Level II law enforcement officer may complete additional training in block steps in order to transition to Level III certification, without such an officer needing to restart the certification process.

(3) Completion of a program shall be established by a certificate to that effect signed by the Executive Director of the Council.

* * *

Sec. 8. 20 V.S.A. § 2361 is amended to read:

§ 2361. ADDITIONAL TRAINING

(a) ~~Nothing in this chapter prohibits any State law enforcement agency, department, or office or any municipality or county of the State from providing additional training beyond basic training to its personnel where no certification is requested of or required by the Council or its Executive Director.~~

(b) ~~The head of a State agency, department, or office, a municipality's chief of police, or a sheriff executive officer of a law enforcement agency may seek certification from the Council for any in-service training he or she, or his or her designee may provide to his or her employees law enforcement officers of his or her agency or of another agency, or both.~~

* * * Vermont State Retirement System; Group C Membership * * *

Sec. 9. LAW ENFORCEMENT STATE RETIREMENT BENEFITS
STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Law Enforcement State Retirement Benefits Study Committee to evaluate the requirements for membership in Group C of the Vermont State Retirement System (System) and to make recommendations to the General Assembly on any proposed changes to those requirements.

(b) Membership.

(1) The Committee shall be composed of the following 10 members:

(A) a current member of the House Committee on Appropriations, appointed by the Speaker;

(B) a current member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(C) a current member of the House Committee on Government Operations, appointed by the Speaker;

(D) a current member of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(E) the State Treasurer or designee;

(F) the Secretary of Administration or designee;

(G) the Commissioner of Human Resources or designee;

(H) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

(I) the President of the Vermont State Employees' Association or designee; and

(J) the Executive Director of the Vermont Troopers' Association or designee.

(2) Any vacancy in membership shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the term.

(c) Powers and duties.

(1) Group C analysis. The Committee shall review the requirements for membership in Group C of the System as set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 455(a)(9)(B) and (11)(C) and shall review all current employee positions classified as Group C in order to perform the following analyses:

(A) whether the requirements for membership in Group C are appropriately tailored to provide the appropriate retirement benefit to the appropriate group of employees; and

(B) whether applicable federal requirements, including the provisions of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, merit changes to the requirements of Group C.

(2) Retirement benefit recommendations. In accordance with its findings made pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Committee shall make the following recommendations:

(A) whether any State employee positions currently in Group C should be reclassified to another group within the System, given the nature of the job duties performed by members in those positions;

(B) whether any State employee positions not currently in Group C should be reclassified into Group C, given the nature of the job duties performed by members in those positions; and

(C) whether the General Assembly should consider any revisions or enhancements to the retirement benefits for certain State employee positions that do not qualify for the current or recommended Group C requirements, if the Committee finds that the nature of the position and job duties performed merits such revisions.

(3) Legal and IRS compliance consulting; appropriation. The amount of \$5,000.00 is appropriated to the Office of Treasurer for the purpose of contracting with a legal and Internal Revenue Service compliance consultant in order to assist the Committee with its powers and duties set forth in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

(d) Assistance.

(1) The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, legal, and fiscal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

(2) The Offices of the State Treasurer and of the Attorney General, the Agency of Administration, the Department of Finance and Management, the Department of Human Resources, and the Agency of Digital Services shall provide support to the Committee as applicable.

(e) Meetings.

(1) The Office of Legislative Council shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur as soon as practicable in fiscal year 2019.

(2) The Committee shall select co-chairs from among its membership, one of whom shall be a member of the House and one of whom shall be a member of the Senate, serving in their capacity as legislators.

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

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on June 30, 2019.

(f) Compensation and reimbursement.

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

(2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Administration.

(g) Reports. On or before January 15, 2019, the Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Appropriations.

* * * Law Enforcement Advisory Board * * *

Sec. 10. LEAB; REPEAL FOR RECODIFICATION

24 V.S.A. § 1939 (Law Enforcement Advisory Board) is repealed.

Sec. 11. 20 V.S.A. § 1818 is added to read:

§ 1818. LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

(a) The Law Enforcement Advisory Board is created within the Department of Public Safety to advise the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Governor, and the General Assembly on issues involving the cooperation and coordination of all agencies that exercise law enforcement responsibilities. The Board shall review any matter that affects more than one law enforcement agency. The Board shall comprise the following members:

- (1) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;
- (2) a member of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont appointed by the President of the Association;
- (3) a member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association appointed by the President of the Association;
- (4) a representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns appointed by the Executive Director of the League;
- (5) a member of the Vermont Police Association appointed by the President of the Association;
- (6) the Attorney General or designee;
- (7) a State's Attorney appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs;
- (8) the U.S. Attorney or designee;
- (9) the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council;
- (10) the Executive Director of the Vermont Troopers' Association or designee;
- (11) a member of the Vermont Constables Association appointed by the President of the Association; and
- (12) the President of the Vermont State Employees Association or designee.

(b) The Board shall elect a chair and a vice chair, which positions shall rotate among the various member representatives. Each member shall serve a term of two years. The Board shall meet at the call of the Chair or a majority

of the members. A quorum shall consist of seven members, and decisions of the Board shall require the approval of a majority of those members present and voting.

(c) The Board shall undertake an ongoing formal process of reviewing law enforcement policies and practices with a goal of developing a comprehensive approach to providing the best services to Vermonters, given the monies available. The Board shall also provide educational resources to Vermonters about public safety challenges in the State.

(d)(1) The Board shall meet at its discretion to develop policies and recommendations for law enforcement priority needs, including retirement benefits, recruitment of officers, training, homeland security issues, dispatching, and comprehensive drug enforcement.

(2) The Board shall present its findings and recommendations in brief summary form to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations annually on or before January 15.

Sec. 12. LEAB; RECODIFICATION DIRECTIVE

(a) 24 V.S.A. § 1939 is recodified as 20 V.S.A. § 1818. During statutory revision, the Office of Legislative Council shall revise accordingly any references to 24 V.S.A. § 1939 in the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

(b) Any references in session law and adopted rules to 24 V.S.A. § 1939 as previously codified shall be deemed to refer to 20 V.S.A. § 1818.

Sec. 13. LEAB; 2019 REPORT ON MUNICIPAL ACCESS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AND ON AGENCY DATA STANDARDS FOR RECORD SYSTEMS

As part of its annual report in the year 2019, the Law Enforcement Advisory Board shall:

(1) specifically recommend ways that towns can increase access to law enforcement services; and

(2) consult with the Vermont Crime Information Center, the Crime Research Group, and other interested stakeholders regarding the manner in which law enforcement agencies enter data into their systems of records of the commission of crimes and related information in order to recommend in the report how agencies can improve that data entry so that crime data is entered uniformly and in a manner that meets the Center's requirement to have a uniform system of crime records as set forth in 20 V.S.A. § 2053.

* * * State Dispatch Costs * * *

Sec. 14. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; REPORT ON EXISTING
STATE COSTS OF PROVIDING DISPATCH SERVICES

On or before October 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall provide to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations the existing cost to the State of the Department of Public Safety providing dispatch services.

* * * Effective Dates and Implementation * * *

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES; IMPLEMENTATION

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018, except:

(1) Sec. 5, amending 20 V.S.A. § 2355 (Council powers and duties) shall take effect on July 1, 2019, except that the requirement to adopt rules set forth in subdivision (a)(1) of that section shall take effect on July 1, 2018 so that those rules are adopted on or before July 1, 2019; and

(2) Sec. 7, amending 20 V.S.A. § 2358 (minimum training standards; definitions) shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 908

An act relating to the Administrative Procedure Act

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

In Sec. 2, 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, in § 838 (filing of proposed rules), in subsection (b) (economic impact analysis; rules affecting small businesses and school districts), in subdivision (2) (small businesses), in the first sentence, by striking out “,when appropriate,”

Report of Committee of Conference

H. 562.

An act relating to parentage proceedings.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill entitled:

H. 562. An act relating to parentage proceedings.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate recede from its proposal of amendment and that

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

Sec. 1. Title 15C is added to read:

TITLE 15C. PARENTAGE PROCEEDINGS

CHAPTER 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS; SCOPE; GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 101. SHORT TITLE

This title may be cited as the Vermont Parentage Act.

§ 102. DEFINITIONS

As used in this title:

(1) “Acknowledged parent” means a person who has established a parent-child relationship under chapter 3 of this title.

(2) “Adjudicated parent” means a person who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a parent of a child.

(3) “Alleged genetic parent” means a person who is alleged to be, or alleges that the person is, a genetic parent or possible genetic parent of a child whose parentage has not been adjudicated. The term includes an alleged genetic father and alleged genetic mother. The term does not include:

(A) a presumed parent;

(B) a person whose parental rights have been terminated or declared not to exist; or

(C) a donor.

(4) “Assisted reproduction” means a method of causing pregnancy other than sexual intercourse and includes:

(A) intrauterine, intracervical, or vaginal insemination;

(B) donation of gametes;

(C) donation of embryos;

(D) in vitro fertilization and transfer of embryos; and

(E) intracytoplasmic sperm injection.

(5) “Birth” includes stillbirth.

(6) “Child” means a person of any age whose parentage may be determined under this title.

(7) “Domestic assault” shall include any offense as set forth in 13

V.S.A. chapter 19, subchapter 6 (domestic assault).

(8) “Donor” means a person who contributes a gamete or gametes or an embryo or embryos to another person for assisted reproduction or gestation, whether or not for consideration. This term does not include:

(A) a person who gives birth to a child conceived by assisted reproduction except as otherwise provided in chapter 8 of this title; or

(B) a parent under chapter 7 of this title or an intended parent under chapter 8 of this title.

(9) “Embryo” means a cell or group of cells containing a diploid complement of chromosomes or a group of such cells, not including a gamete, that has the potential to develop into a live born human being if transferred into the body of a person under conditions in which gestation may be reasonably expected to occur.

(10) “Gamete” means a sperm, egg, or any part of a sperm or egg.

(11) “Genetic population group” means, for purposes of genetic testing, a recognized group that a person identifies as all or part of the person’s ancestry or that is so identified by other information.

(12) “Gestational carrier” means an adult person who is not an intended parent and who enters into a gestational carrier agreement to bear a child conceived using the gametes of other persons and not the gestational carrier’s own, except that a person who carries a child for a family member using the gestational carrier’s own gametes and who fulfills the requirements of chapter 8 of this title is a gestational carrier.

(13) “Gestational carrier agreement” means a contract between an intended parent or parents and a gestational carrier intended to result in a live birth.

(14) “Intended parent” means a person, whether married or unmarried, who manifests the intent to be legally bound as a parent of a child resulting from assisted reproduction or a gestational carrier agreement.

(15) “Marriage” includes civil union and any legal relationship that provides substantially the same rights, benefits, and responsibilities as marriage and is recognized as valid in the state or jurisdiction in which it was entered.

(16) “Parent” means a person who has established parentage that meets the requirements of this title.

(17) “Parentage” means the legal relationship between a child and a parent as established under this title.

(18) “Presumed parent” means a person who is recognized as the parent of a child under section 401 of this title.

(19) “Record” means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(20) “Sexual assault” shall include sexual assault as provided in 13 V.S.A. § 3252(a), (b), (d), and (e); aggravated sexual assault as provided in 13 V.S.A. § 3253; aggravated sexual assault of a child as provided in 13 V.S.A. § 3253a; lewd and lascivious conduct with a child as provided in 13 V.S.A. § 2602; and similar offenses in other jurisdictions.

(21) “Sexual exploitation” shall include sexual exploitation of an inmate as provided in 13 V.S.A. § 3257, sexual exploitation of a minor as provided in 13 V.S.A. § 3258, sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult as provided in 13 V.S.A. § 1379, and similar offenses in other jurisdictions.

(22) “Sign” means, with the intent to authenticate or adopt a record, to:

(A) execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

(B) attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or process.

(23) “Signatory” means a person who signs a record and is bound by its terms.

(24) “Spouse” includes a partner in a civil union or a partner in a legal relationship that provides substantially the same rights, benefits, and responsibilities as marriage and is recognized as valid in the state or jurisdiction in which it was entered.

§ 103. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

(a) Scope. This title applies to determination of parentage in this State.

(b) Choice of law. The court shall apply the law of this State to adjudicate parentage.

(c) Effect on parental rights. This title does not create, enlarge, or diminish parental rights and responsibilities under other laws of this State or the equitable powers of the courts, except as provided in this title.

§ 104. PARENTAGE PROCEEDING

(a) Proceeding authorized. A proceeding to adjudicate the parentage of a child shall be maintained in accordance with this title and with the Vermont Rules for Family Proceedings, except that proceedings for birth orders under sections 708 and 804 of this title shall be maintained in accordance with the Vermont Rules of Probate Procedure.

(b) Actions brought by the Office of Child Support. If the complaint is brought by the Office of Child Support, the complaint shall be accompanied by an affidavit of the parent whose rights have been assigned. In cases where the assignor is not a genetic parent or is a genetic parent who refuses to provide an affidavit, the affidavit may be submitted by the Office of Child Support, but the affidavit alone shall not support a default judgment on the issue of parentage.

(c) Original actions. Original actions to adjudicate parentage may be commenced in the Family Division of the Superior Court, except that proceedings for birth orders under sections 708 and 804 of this title shall be commenced in the Probate Division of the Superior Court.

(d) No right to jury. There shall be no right to a jury trial in an action to determine parentage.

(e) Disclosure of Social Security numbers. A person who is a party to a parentage action shall disclose that person's Social Security number to the court. The Social Security number of a person subject to a parentage adjudication shall be placed in the court records relating to the adjudication. The court shall disclose a person's Social Security number to the Office of Child Support.

§ 105. STANDING TO MAINTAIN PROCEEDING

Subject to other provisions of this chapter, a proceeding to adjudicate parentage may be maintained by:

(1) the child;

(2) the person who gave birth to the child unless a court has adjudicated that the person is not a parent or the person is a gestational carrier who is not a parent under subdivision 803(1)(A) of this title;

(3) a person whose parentage is to be adjudicated;

(4) a person who is a parent under this title;

(5) the Department for Children and Families, including the Office of Child Support; or

(6) a representative authorized by law to act for a person who would otherwise be entitled to maintain a proceeding but who is deceased, incapacitated, or a minor.

§ 106. NOTICE OF PROCEEDING

(a) A petitioner under this chapter shall give notice of the proceeding to adjudicate parentage to the following:

(1) the person who gave birth to the child unless a court has adjudicated that the person is not a parent;

(2) a person who is a parent of the child under this chapter;

(3) a presumed, acknowledged, or adjudicated parent of the child;

(4) a person whose parentage of the child is to be adjudicated; and

(5) the Office of Child Support, in cases in which either party is a recipient of public assistance benefits from the Economic Services Division and has assigned the right to child support, or in cases in which either party has requested the services of the Office of Child Support.

(b) A person entitled to notice under subsection (a) of this section and the Office of Child Support, where the Office is involved pursuant to subdivision (a)(5), has a right to intervene in the proceeding.

(c) Lack of notice required by subsection (a) of this section shall not render a judgment void. Lack of notice does not preclude a person entitled to notice under subsection (a) from bringing a proceeding under this title.

(d) This section shall not apply to petitions for birth orders under chapters 7 and 8 of this title.

§ 107. FORM OF NOTICE

Notice shall be by first-class mail to the person's last known address.

§ 108. PERSONAL JURISDICTION

(a) Personal jurisdiction. A person shall not be adjudicated a parent unless the court has personal jurisdiction over the person.

(b) Personal jurisdiction over nonresident. A court of this State having jurisdiction to adjudicate parentage may exercise personal jurisdiction over a nonresident person, or the guardian or conservator of the person, if the conditions prescribed in Title 15B are fulfilled.

(c) Adjudication. Lack of jurisdiction over one person does not preclude the court from making an adjudication of parentage binding on another person over whom the court has personal jurisdiction.

§ 109. VENUE

Venue for a proceeding to adjudicate parentage shall be in the county in which:

(1) the child resides or is present or, for purposes of chapter 7 or 8 of this title, is or will be born;

(2) any parent or intended parent resides;

(3) the respondent resides or is present if the child does not reside in this State;

(4) a proceeding for probate or administration of the parent or alleged parent's estate has been commenced; or

(5) a child protection proceeding with respect to the child has been commenced.

§ 110. JOINDER OF PROCEEDINGS

(a) Joinder permitted. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, a proceeding to adjudicate parentage may be joined with a proceeding for parental rights and responsibilities, parent-child contact, child support, child protection, termination of parental rights, divorce, annulment, legal separation, guardianship, probate or administration of an estate or other appropriate proceeding, or a challenge or rescission of acknowledgment of parentage. Such proceedings shall be in the Family Division of the Superior Court.

(b) Joinder not permitted. A respondent may not join a proceeding described in subsection (a) of this section with a proceeding to adjudicate parentage brought as part of an interstate child support enforcement action under Title 15B.

§ 111. ORDERS

(a) Interim order for support. In a proceeding under this title, the court may issue an interim order for support of a child in accordance with the child support guidelines under 15 V.S.A. § 654 with respect to a person who is:

(1) a presumed, acknowledged, or adjudicated parent of the child;

(2) petitioning to have parentage adjudicated;

(3) identified as the genetic parent through genetic testing under chapter 6 of this title;

(4) an alleged genetic parent who has declined to submit to genetic testing;

(5) shown by a preponderance of evidence to be a parent of the child;

(6) the person who gave birth to the child, other than a gestational carrier; or

(7) a parent under this chapter.

(b) Interim order for parental rights and responsibilities. In a proceeding under this title, the court may make an interim order regarding parental rights and responsibilities on a temporary basis.

(c) Final orders. Final orders concerning child support or parental rights and responsibilities shall be governed by Title 15.

§ 112. ADMISSION OF PARENTAGE AUTHORIZED

(a) Admission of parentage. A respondent in a proceeding to adjudicate parentage may admit parentage of a child when making an appearance or during a hearing in a proceeding involving the child or by filing a pleading to such effect. An admission of parentage pursuant to this section is different from an acknowledgment of parentage as provided in chapter 3 of this title.

(b) Order adjudicating parentage. If the court finds an admission to be consistent with the provisions of this chapter and rejects any objection filed by another party, the court may issue an order adjudicating the child to be the child of the person admitting parentage.

§ 113. ORDER ON DEFAULT

The court may issue an order adjudicating the parentage of a person who is in default, providing:

- (1) the person was served with notice of the proceeding; and
- (2) the person is found by the court to be the parent of the child.

§ 114. ORDER ADJUDICATING PARENTAGE

(a) Issuance of order. In a proceeding under this chapter, the court shall issue a final order adjudicating whether a person alleged or claiming to be a parent is the parent of a child.

(b) Identify child. A final order under subsection (a) of this section shall identify the child by name and date of birth.

(c) Change of name. On request of a party and for good cause shown, the court may order that the name of the child be changed.

(d) Amended birth record. If the final order under subsection (a) of this section is at variance with the child's birth certificate, the Department of Health shall issue an amended birth certificate.

§ 115. BINDING EFFECT OF DETERMINATION OF PARENTAGE

(a) Determination binding. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, a determination of parentage shall be binding on:

- (1) all signatories to an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage as provided in chapter 3 of this title; and
- (2) all parties to an adjudication by a court acting under circumstances that satisfy the jurisdictional requirements of section 108 of this title.

(b) Adjudication in proceeding to dissolve marriage. In a proceeding to dissolve a marriage, the court is deemed to have made an adjudication of the parentage of a child if:

(1) the court acts under circumstances that satisfy the jurisdictional requirements of section 108 of this title; and

(2) the final order:

(A) expressly identifies a child as a “child of the marriage” or “issue of the marriage” or by similar words indicates that the parties are the parents of the child; or

(B) provides for support of the child by the parent or parents.

(c) Determination a defense. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a determination of parentage shall be a defense in a subsequent proceeding seeking to adjudicate parentage by a person who was not a party to the earlier proceeding.

(d) Challenge to adjudication.

(1) Challenge by a person who was a party to an adjudication. A party to an adjudication of parentage may challenge the adjudication only by appeal or in a manner otherwise consistent with the Vermont Rules for Family Proceedings.

(2) Challenge by a person who was not a party to an adjudication. A person who has standing under section 105 of this title, but who did not receive notice of the adjudication of parentage under section 106 of this title and was not a party to the adjudication, may challenge the adjudication within two years after the effective date of the adjudication. The court, in its discretion, shall permit the proceeding only if it finds that it is in the best interests of the child. If the court permits the proceeding, the court shall adjudicate parentage under section 206 of this title.

(e) Child not bound. A child is not bound by a determination of parentage under this chapter unless:

(1) the determination was based on an unrescinded acknowledgment of parentage and the acknowledgment is consistent with the results of genetic testing;

(2) the determination was based on a finding consistent with the results of genetic testing;

(3) the determination of parentage was made under chapter 7 or 8 of this title; or

(4) the child was a party or was represented by an attorney, guardian ad litem, or similar person in the proceeding in which the child's parentage was adjudicated.

§ 116. FULL FAITH AND CREDIT

A court of this State shall give full faith and credit to a determination of parentage and to an acknowledgment of parentage from another state if the determination is valid and effective in accordance with the law of the other state.

CHAPTER 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PARENTAGE

§ 201. RECOGNIZED PARENTS

A person may establish parentage by any of the following:

(1) Birth. Giving birth to the child, except as otherwise provided in chapter 8 of this title.

(2) Adoption. Adoption of the child pursuant to Title 15A.

(3) Acknowledgment. An effective voluntary acknowledgment of parentage under chapter 3 of this title.

(4) Adjudication. An adjudication based on an admission of parentage under section 112 of this title.

(5) Presumption. An unrebutted presumption of parentage under chapter 4 of this title.

(6) De facto parentage. An adjudication of de facto parentage, under chapter 5 of this title.

(7) Genetic parentage. An adjudication of genetic parentage under chapter 6 of this title.

(8) Assisted reproduction. Consent to assisted reproduction under chapter 7 of this title.

(9) Gestational carrier agreement. Consent to a gestational carrier agreement by the intended parent or parents under chapter 8 of this title.

§ 202. NONDISCRIMINATION

Every child has the same rights under law as any other child without regard to the marital status or gender of the parents or the circumstances of the birth of the child.

§ 203. CONSEQUENCES OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PARENTAGE

Unless parentage has been terminated by a court order or an exception has been stated explicitly in this title, parentage established under this title applies for all purposes, including the rights and duties of parentage under the law.

§ 204. DETERMINATION OF MATERNITY AND PATERNITY

Provisions of this title relating to determination of paternity may apply to determination of maternity as needed to determine parentage consistent with this title.

§ 205. NO LIMITATION ON CHILD

Nothing in this chapter limits the right of a child to bring an action to adjudicate parentage.

§ 206. ADJUDICATING COMPETING CLAIMS OF PARENTAGE

(a) Competing claims of parentage. Except as otherwise provided in section 616 of this title, in a proceeding to adjudicate competing claims of parentage or challenges to a child's parentage by two or more persons, the court shall adjudicate parentage in the best interests of the child, based on the following factors:

- (1) the age of the child;
- (2) the length of time during which each person assumed the role of parent of the child;
- (3) the nature of the relationship between the child and each person;
- (4) the harm to the child if the relationship between the child and each person is not recognized;
- (5) the basis for each person's claim to parentage of the child; and
- (6) other equitable factors arising from the disruption of the relationship between the child and each person or the likelihood of other harm to the child.

(b) Preservation of parent-child relationship. Consistent with the establishment of parentage under this chapter, a court may determine that a child has more than two parents if the court finds that it is in the best interests of the child to do so. A finding of best interests of the child under this subsection does not require a finding of unfitness of any parent or person seeking an adjudication of parentage.

CHAPTER 3. VOLUNTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAGE

§ 301. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAGE

(a) The following persons may sign an acknowledgment of parentage to establish parentage of a child:

(1) a person who gave birth to the child;

(2) a person who is the alleged genetic parent of the child;

(3) a person who is an intended parent to the child pursuant to chapter 7 or 8 of this title; and

(4) a presumed parent pursuant to chapter 4 of this title.

(b) The acknowledgment shall be signed by both the person who gave birth to the child and by the person seeking to establish a parent-child relationship and shall be witnessed and signed by at least one other person.

§ 302. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAGE VOID

An acknowledgment of parentage shall be void if, at the time of signing:

(1) a person other than the person seeking to establish parentage is a presumed parent, unless a denial of parentage in a signed record has been filed with the Department of Health; or

(2) a person, other than the person who gave birth, is an acknowledged, admitted, or adjudicated parent, or an intended parent under chapter 7 or 8 of this title.

§ 303. DENIAL OF PARENTAGE

A person presumed to be a parent or an alleged genetic parent may sign a denial of parentage only in the limited circumstances set forth in this section. A denial of parentage shall be valid only if:

(1) an acknowledgment of parentage by another person has been filed pursuant to this chapter;

(2) the denial is in a record and is witnessed and signed by at least one other person; and

(3) the person executing the denial has not previously:

(A) acknowledged parentage, unless the previous acknowledgment has been rescinded pursuant to section 307 of this title or successfully challenged the acknowledgment pursuant to section 308 of this title; or

(B) been adjudicated to be the parent of the child.

§ 304. CONDITIONS FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OR DENIAL OF PARENTAGE

(a) Completed forms for acknowledgment of parentage and denial of parentage shall be filed with the Department of Health.

(b) An acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage may be signed before or after the birth of a child.

(c) An acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage takes effect on the date of the birth of the child or the filing of the document with the Department of Health, whichever occurs later.

(d) An acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage signed by a minor shall be valid provided it is otherwise in compliance with this title.

§ 305. EQUIVALENT TO ADJUDICATION; NO RATIFICATION
REQUIRED

(a) Acknowledgment. Except as otherwise provided in sections 307 and 308 of this title, a valid acknowledgment of parentage under section 301 of this title filed with the Department of Health is equivalent to an adjudication of parentage of a child and confers upon the acknowledged parent all of the rights and duties of a parent.

(b) Ratification. Judicial or administrative ratification is neither permitted nor required for an unrescinded or unchallenged acknowledgment of parentage.

(c) Denial. Except as otherwise provided in sections 307 and 308 of this title, a valid denial of parentage under section 303 of this title filed with the Department of Health in conjunction with a valid acknowledgment of parentage under section 301 of this title is equivalent to an adjudication of the nonparentage of the presumed parent or alleged genetic parent and discharges the presumed parent or alleged genetic parent from all rights and duties of a parent.

(d) Rescission or challenge. A signatory of an acknowledgment of parentage may rescind or challenge the acknowledgment in accordance with sections 307-309 of this title.

§ 306. NO FILING FEE

The Department of Health shall not charge a fee for filing an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage.

§ 307. TIMING OF RESCISSION

(a) A person may rescind an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage under this chapter by any of the following methods:

(1) Filing a rescission with the Department of Health within 60 days after the effective date of the acknowledgment or denial. The signing of the rescission shall be witnessed and signed by at least one other person.

(2) Commencing a court proceeding within 60 days after:

(A) the effective date of the acknowledgment or denial, as provided in section 304 of this title; or

(B) the date of the first court hearing in a proceeding in which the signatory is a party to adjudicate an issue relating to the child, including a proceeding seeking child support.

(b) If an acknowledgment of parentage is rescinded under this section, any associated denial of parentage becomes invalid, and the Department of Health shall notify the person who gave birth to the child and any person who signed a denial of parentage of the child that the acknowledgment of parentage has been rescinded. Failure to give notice required by this section does not affect the validity of the rescission.

§ 308. CHALLENGE TO ACKNOWLEDGMENT AFTER EXPIRATION OF PERIOD FOR RESCISSION

(a) Challenge by signatory. After the period for rescission under section 307 of this title has expired, a signatory of an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage may commence a proceeding to challenge the acknowledgment or denial only:

(1) on the basis of fraud, duress, coercion, threat of harm, or material mistake of fact; and

(2) within two years after the acknowledgment or denial is effective in accordance with section 304 of this title.

(b) Challenge by person not a signatory. If an acknowledgment of parentage has been made in accordance with this chapter, a person who is neither the child nor a signatory to the acknowledgment who seeks to challenge the validity of the acknowledgment and adjudicate parentage shall commence a proceeding within two years after the effective date of the acknowledgment unless the person did not know and could not reasonably have known of the person's potential parentage due to a material misrepresentation or concealment, in which case the proceeding shall be commenced within two years after the discovery of the person's potential parentage.

(c) Burden of proof. A person challenging an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage pursuant to this section has the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence.

(d) Consolidation. A court proceeding in which the validity of an acknowledgment of parentage is challenged shall be consolidated with any other pending court actions regarding the child.

§ 309. PROCEDURE FOR RESCISSION OR CHALLENGE

(a) Every signatory party. Every signatory to an acknowledgment of parentage and any related denial of parentage shall be made a party to a proceeding under section 307 or 308 of this title to rescind or challenge the acknowledgment or denial.

(b) Submission to personal jurisdiction. For the purpose of rescission of or challenge to an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage, a signatory submits to personal jurisdiction of this State by signing the acknowledgment or denial, effective upon the filing of the document with the Department of Health pursuant to section 304 of this title.

(c) Suspension of legal responsibilities. Except for good cause shown, during the pendency of a proceeding to rescind or challenge an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage, the court shall not suspend the legal responsibilities of a signatory arising from the acknowledgment, including the duty to pay child support.

(d) Proceeding to rescind or challenge. A proceeding to rescind or challenge an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage shall be conducted as a proceeding to adjudicate parentage pursuant to chapter 1 of this title.

(e) Amendment to birth record. At the conclusion of a proceeding to rescind or challenge an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage, the court shall order the Department of Health to amend the birth record of the child, if appropriate.

§ 310. FORMS FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DENIAL OF PARENTAGE

(a) The Department of Health shall develop an acknowledgment of parentage form and denial of parentage form for execution of parentage under this chapter.

(b) The acknowledgment of parentage form shall provide notice of the alternatives to, the legal consequences of, and the rights and responsibilities that arise from signing the acknowledgment and shall state that:

(1) there is no other presumed parent of the child or, if there is another presumed parent, shall state that parent's full name;

(2) there is no other acknowledged parent, adjudicated parent, or person who is an intended parent under chapter 7 or 8 of this title other than the person who gave birth to the child; and

(3) the signatories understand that the acknowledgment is the equivalent of a court determination of parentage of the child and that a challenge to the acknowledgment is permitted only under limited circumstances.

(c) A valid acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage is not affected by a later modification of the prescribed form.

§ 311. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

The Department of Health may release information relating to an acknowledgment of parentage under section 301 of this title as provided in 18 V.S.A. § 5002.

§ 312. ADOPTION OF RULES

The Department of Health may adopt rules to implement this chapter.

CHAPTER 4. PRESUMED PARENTAGE

§ 401. PRESUMPTION OF PARENTAGE

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person is presumed to be a parent of a child if:

(1) the person and the person who gave birth to the child are married to each other and the child is born during the marriage; or

(2) the person and the person who gave birth to the child were married to each other and the child is born not later than 300 days after the marriage is terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, divorce, or dissolution; or

(3) the person and the person who gave birth to the child married each other after the birth of the child and the person at any time asserted parentage of the child and the person agreed to be and is named as a parent of the child on the birth certificate of the child; or

(4) the person resided in the same household with the child for the first two years of the life of the child, including periods of temporary absence, and the person and another parent of the child openly held out the child as the person's child.

(b) A presumption of parentage shall be rebuttable and may be overcome and competing claims to parentage resolved only by court order or a valid denial of parentage pursuant to chapter 3 of this title.

§ 402. CHALLENGE TO PRESUMED PARENT

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a proceeding to challenge the parentage of a person whose parentage is presumed under section 401 of this title shall be commenced within two years after the birth of the child.

(b) A proceeding to challenge the parentage of a person whose parentage is presumed under section 401 of this title may be commenced two years or more after the birth of the child in the following circumstances:

(1) A presumed parent who is not the genetic parent of a child and who could not reasonably have known about the birth of the child may commence a proceeding under this section within two years after learning of the child's birth.

(2) An alleged genetic parent who did not know of the potential genetic parentage of a child and who could not reasonably have known on account of material misrepresentation or concealment may commence a proceeding under this section within two years after discovering the potential genetic parentage. If the person is adjudicated to be the genetic parent of the child, the court may not disestablish a presumed parent.

(3) Regarding a presumption under subdivision 401(a)(4) of this title, another parent of the child may challenge a presumption of parentage if that parent openly held out the child as the presumptive parent's child due to duress, coercion, or threat of harm. Evidence of duress, coercion, or threat of harm may include whether within the prior ten years, the person presumed to be a parent pursuant to subdivision 401(a)(4) of this title has been convicted of domestic assault, sexual assault, or sexual exploitation of the child or another parent of the child, was subject to a final abuse protection order pursuant to 15 V.S.A. chapter 21 because the person was found to have committed abuse against the child or another parent of the child, or was substantiated for abuse against the child or another parent of the child pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 49 or 33 V.S.A. chapter 69.

§ 403. MULTIPLE PRESUMPTIONS

If two or more conflicting presumptions arise under this chapter, the court shall adjudicate parentage pursuant to section 206 of this title.

CHAPTER 5. DE FACTO PARENTAGE

§ 501. STANDARD; ADJUDICATION

(a)(1) In a proceeding to adjudicate the parentage of a person who claims to be a de facto parent of the child, if there is only one other person who is a parent or has a claim to parentage of the child, the court shall adjudicate the person who claims to be a de facto parent to be a parent of the child if the person demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that:

(A) the person resided with the child as a regular member of the child's household for a significant period of time;

(B) the person engaged in consistent caretaking of the child;

(C) the person undertook full and permanent responsibilities of a parent of the child without expectation of financial compensation;

(D) the person held out the child as the person's child;

(E) the person established a bonded and dependent relationship with the child which is parental in nature;

(F) the person and another parent of the child fostered or supported the bonded and dependent relationship required under subdivision (E) of this subdivision (1); and

(G) continuing the relationship between the person and the child is in the best interests of the child.

(2) A parent of the child may use evidence of duress, coercion, or threat of harm to contest an allegation that the parent fostered or supported a bonded and dependent relationship as provided in subdivision (1)(F) of this subsection. Such evidence may include whether within the prior ten years, the person seeking to be adjudicated a de facto parent has been convicted of domestic assault, sexual assault, or sexual exploitation of the child or another parent of the child, was subject to a final abuse protection order pursuant to 15 V.S.A. chapter 21 because the person was found to have committed abuse against the child or another parent of the child, or was substantiated for abuse against the child or another parent of the child pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 49 or 33 V.S.A. chapter 69.

(b) In a proceeding to adjudicate the parentage of a person who claims to be a de facto parent of the child, if there is more than one other person who is a parent or has a claim to parentage of the child and the court determines that the requirements of subsection (a) of this section are met by clear and convincing evidence, the court shall adjudicate parentage under section 206 of this title, subject to other applicable limitations in this title.

(c) The adjudication of a person as a de facto parent under this chapter does not disestablish the parentage of any other parent.

§ 502. STANDING; PETITION

(a) A person seeking to be adjudicated a de facto parent of a child shall file a petition with the Family Division of the Superior Court before the child reaches 18 years of age. Both the person seeking to be adjudicated a de facto parent and the child must be alive at the time of the filing. The petition shall include a verified affidavit alleging facts to support the existence of a de facto parent relationship with the child. The petition and affidavit shall be served on all parents and legal guardians of the child and any other party to the proceeding.

(b) An adverse party, parent, or legal guardian may file a pleading and verified affidavit in response to the petition that shall be served on all parties to the proceeding.

(c) The court shall determine on the basis of the pleadings and affidavits whether the person seeking to be adjudicated a de facto parent has presented prima facie evidence of the criteria for de facto parentage as provided in subsection 501(a) of this title and, therefore, has standing to proceed with a parentage action. The court, in its sole discretion, may hold a hearing to determine disputed facts that are necessary and material to the issue of standing.

(d) The court may enter an interim order concerning contact between the child and a person with standing seeking adjudication under this chapter as a de facto parent of the child.

CHAPTER 6. GENETIC PARENTAGE

§ 601. SCOPE

This chapter governs procedures and requirements of genetic testing and genetic testing results of a person to determine parentage and adjudication of parentage based on genetic testing, whether the person voluntarily submits to testing or is tested pursuant to an order of the court. Genetic testing shall not be used to challenge the parentage of a person who is a parent by operation of law under chapter 7 or 8 of this title or to establish the parentage of a person who is a donor.

§ 602. REQUIREMENTS FOR GENETIC TESTING

Genetic testing shall be of a type reasonably relied upon by scientific and medical experts in the field of genetic testing and performed in a testing laboratory accredited by a national association of blood banks or an accrediting body designated by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As used in this chapter, "genetic testing" shall have the same meaning as provided in 18 V.S.A. § 9331.

§ 603. COURT ORDER FOR TESTING

(a) Order to submit to genetic testing. Except as provided in section 615 of this title or as otherwise provided in this chapter, upon motion the court may order a child and other persons to submit to genetic testing.

(b) Presumption of genetic parentage. Genetic testing of the person who gave birth to a child shall not be ordered to prove that such person is the genetic parent unless there is a reasonable, good faith basis to dispute genetic parentage.

(c) In utero testing. A court shall not order in utero genetic testing.

(d) Concurrent or sequential testing. If two or more persons are subject to court-ordered genetic testing, the testing may be ordered concurrently or sequentially.

§ 604. GENETIC TESTING RESULTS

(a) A person shall be identified as a genetic parent of a child if the genetic testing of the person complies with this chapter and the results of testing disclose that the individual has at least a 99 percent probability of parentage as determined by the testing laboratory.

(b) Identification of a genetic parent through genetic testing does not establish parentage absent adjudication under this chapter and a court may rely on nongenetic evidence to determine parentage, including parentage by acknowledgment pursuant to chapter 3 of this title or by admission pursuant to section 112 of this title, presumed parentage under chapter 4 of this title, de facto parentage under chapter 5 of this title, and parentage by intended parents under chapter 7 or 8 of this title.

(c) A person identified under subsection (a) of this section as a genetic parent of a child may rebut the genetic testing results only by other genetic testing satisfying the requirements of this chapter that:

(1) excludes the person as a genetic parent of the child; or

(2) identifies a person other than the person who gave birth to the child as a possible genetic parent of the child.

§ 605. REPORT OF GENETIC TESTING

(a) A report of genetic testing shall be in a record and signed under penalty of perjury by a designee of the testing laboratory. A report made under the requirements of this chapter is self-authenticating.

(b) A party in possession of results of genetic testing shall provide such results to all other parties to the parentage action upon receipt of the results and not later than 15 days before any hearing at which the results may be admitted into evidence.

§ 606. ADMISSIBILITY OF RESULTS OF GENETIC TESTING

(a) Production of results; notice. Unless waived by the parties, a party intending to rely on the results of genetic testing shall do all of the following:

(1) make the test results available to the other parties to the parentage action at least 15 days prior to any hearing at which the results may be admitted into evidence;

(2) give notice to the court and other parties to the proceeding of the intent to use the test results at the hearing; and

(3) give the other parties notice of this statutory section, including the need to object in a timely fashion.

(b) Objection. Any motion objecting to genetic test results shall be made in writing to the court and to the party intending to introduce the evidence at least seven days prior to any hearing at which the results may be introduced into evidence. If no timely objection is made, the written results shall be admissible as evidence without the need for foundation testimony or other proof of authenticity or accuracy.

(c) Results inadmissible; exceptions. If a child has a presumed parent, acknowledged parent, or adjudicated parent, the results of genetic testing shall be admissible to adjudicate parentage only:

(1) with the consent of each person who is a parent of the child under this title, unless the court finds that admission of the testing is in the best interests of the child as provided in subsection 615(b) of this title; or

(2) pursuant to an order of the court under section 603 of this title.

§ 607. ADDITIONAL GENETIC TESTING

The court shall order additional genetic testing upon the request of a party who contests the result of the initial testing. If the initial genetic testing identified a person as a genetic parent of the child under section 604 of this title, the court shall not order additional testing unless the party provides advance payment for the testing.

§ 608. CONSEQUENCES OF DECLINING GENETIC TESTING

(a) If a person whose parentage is being determined under this chapter declines to submit to genetic testing ordered by the court, the court for that reason may adjudicate parentage contrary to the position of that person.

(b) Genetic testing of the person who gave birth to a child is not a condition precedent to testing the child and an individual whose parentage is being determined under this chapter. If the person who gave birth is unavailable or declines to submit to genetic testing, the court may order the testing of the child and every person whose genetic parentage is being adjudicated.

§ 609. ADJUDICATION OF PARENTAGE BASED ON GENETIC TESTING

(a)(1) If genetic testing results pursuant to section 604 of this title exclude a person as the genetic parent of a child, the court shall find that person is not a

genetic parent of the child and may not adjudicate the person as the child's parent on the basis of genetic testing.

(2) If genetic testing results pursuant to section 604 of this title identify a person as the genetic parent of a child, the court shall find that person to be the genetic parent and may adjudicate the person as the child's parent, unless otherwise provided by this title.

(3) Subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection do not apply if the results of genetic testing are admitted for the purpose of rebutting results of other genetic testing.

(b) If the court finds that genetic testing pursuant to section 604 of this title neither identifies nor excludes a person as the genetic parent of a child, the court shall not dismiss the proceeding. In that event, the results of genetic testing and other evidence are admissible to adjudicate the issue of parentage, including testimony relating to the sexual conduct of the person who gave birth to the child but only if it is alleged to have occurred during a time when conception of the child was probable.

§ 610. COSTS OF GENETIC TESTING

(a) The costs of initial genetic testing shall be paid:

(1) by the Office of Child Support in a proceeding in which the Office is providing services, if the Office requests such testing;

(2) as agreed by the parties or, if the parties cannot agree, by the person who made the request for genetic testing; or

(3) as ordered by the court.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a person who challenges a presumption, acknowledgment, or admission of parentage shall bear the cost for any genetic testing requested by such person.

(c) In cases in which the payment for the costs of initial genetic testing is advanced pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Office of Child Support may seek reimbursement from the genetic parent whose parent-child relationship is established.

§ 611. GENETIC TESTING WHEN SPECIMENS NOT AVAILABLE

(a) If a genetic testing specimen is not available from an alleged genetic parent of a child, for good cause the court may order the following persons to submit specimens for genetic testing:

(1) the parents of the alleged genetic parent;

(2) a sibling of the alleged genetic parent;

(3) another child of the alleged genetic parent and the person who gave birth to that other child; and

(4) another relative of the alleged genetic parent necessary to complete genetic testing.

(b) Prior to issuing an order under subsection (a) of this section, the court shall provide notice and opportunity to be heard to the person from whom a genetic sample is requested. If the court does order a person to be tested pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, it shall make a written finding that the need for genetic testing outweighs the legitimate interests, including the privacy and bodily integrity interests, of the person sought to be tested.

(c) A genetic specimen taken pursuant to this section shall be destroyed after final determination of the parentage case.

§ 612. DECEASED PERSON

For good cause shown, the court may order genetic testing of a deceased person.

§ 613. IDENTICAL SIBLING

(a) The court may order genetic testing of a person who is believed to have an identical sibling if evidence suggests the sibling may be the genetic parent of the child.

(b) If more than one sibling is identified as a genetic parent of the child, the court may rely on nongenetic evidence to adjudicate which sibling is a genetic parent of the child.

§ 614. CONFIDENTIALITY OF GENETIC TESTING

(a) A report of genetic testing for parentage is exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential and released only as provided in this title.

(b) A person shall not intentionally release a report of genetic testing or the genetic material of another person for a purpose not relevant to a parentage proceeding without the written permission of the person who furnished the genetic material. A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

§ 615. AUTHORITY TO DENY REQUESTED ORDER FOR GENETIC TESTING OR ADMISSION OF TEST RESULTS

(a) Grounds for denial. In a proceeding to adjudicate parentage, the court may deny a motion seeking an order for genetic testing or deny admissibility of the test results at trial if it determines that:

(1) the conduct of the parties estops a party from denying parentage; or

(2) it would be an inequitable interference with the relationship between the child and an acknowledged, adjudicated, de facto, presumed, or intended parent, or would otherwise be contrary to the best interests of the child as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Factors. In determining whether to deny a motion seeking an order for genetic testing under this title or a request for admission of such test results at trial, the court shall consider the best interests of the child, including the following factors, if relevant:

(1) the length of time between the proceeding to adjudicate parentage and the time that a parent was placed on notice that genetic parentage is at issue;

(2) the length of time during which the parent has assumed a parental role for the child;

(3) the facts surrounding discovery that genetic parentage is at issue;

(4) the nature of the relationship between the child and the parent;

(5) the age of the child;

(6) any adverse effect on the child that may result if parentage is successfully disproved;

(7) the nature of the relationship between the child and any alleged parent;

(8) the extent to which the passage of time reduces the chances of establishing the parentage of another person and a child support obligation in favor of the child; and

(9) any additional factors that may affect the equities arising from the disruption of the relationship between the child and the parent or the chance of an adverse effect on the child.

(c) Order. In cases involving an acknowledged or presumed parent, if the court denies a motion seeking an order for genetic testing, the court shall issue an order adjudicating the acknowledged or presumed parent to be the parent of the child.

§ 616. PRECLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF PARENTAGE BY PERPETRATOR OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

(a) In a proceeding in which a person is alleged to have committed a sexual assault that resulted in the birth of a child, the person giving birth may seek to preclude the establishment of the other person's parentage.

(b) This section shall not apply if the person alleged to have committed a sexual assault has previously been adjudicated to be a parent of the child.

(c) In a parentage proceeding, the person giving birth may file a pleading making an allegation under subsection (a) of this section at any time.

(d) The standard of proof that a child was conceived as a result of the person sexually assaulting the person who gave birth to the child may be proven by the petitioner by either of the following:

(1) clear and convincing evidence that the person was convicted of a sexual assault against the person giving birth and that the child was conceived as a result of the sexual assault; or

(2) clear and convincing evidence that the person sexually assaulted or sexually exploited the person who gave birth to the child and that the child was conceived as a result of the sexual assault or sexual exploitation, regardless of whether criminal charges were brought against the person.

(e) If the court finds that the burden of proof under subsection (d) of this section is met, the court shall enter an order:

(1) adjudicating that the person alleged to have committed a sexual assault is not a parent of the child;

(2) requiring that the Department of Health amend the birth certificate to delete the name of the person precluded as a parent; and

(3) requiring that the person alleged to have committed a sexual assault to pay child support or birth-related costs, or both, unless the person giving birth requests otherwise.

CHAPTER 7. PARENTAGE BY ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

§ 701. SCOPE

This chapter does not apply to the birth of a child conceived by sexual intercourse or assisted reproduction under a surrogacy agreement under chapter 8 of this title.

§ 702. PARENTAL STATUS OF DONOR

(a) A donor is not a parent of a child conceived through assisted reproduction.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section:

(1) a person who provides a gamete or gametes or an embryo or embryos to be used for assisted reproduction for the person's spouse is a parent of the resulting child; and

(2) a person who provides a gamete or an embryo for assisted reproduction is a parent of the resulting child if the person has a written agreement or agreements with the person giving birth that the person providing the gamete or the embryo is intended to be a parent.

§ 703. PARENTAGE OF CHILD OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

A person who consents under section 704 of this title to assisted reproduction by another person with the intent to be a parent of a child conceived by the assisted reproduction is a parent of the child.

§ 704. CONSENT TO ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

(a)(1) A person who intends to be a parent of a child born through assisted reproduction shall consent to such in a signed record that is executed by each intended parent and provides that the signatories consent to the use of assisted reproduction to conceive a child with the intent to parent the child.

(2) Consent pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, executed via a form made available by the Department of Health, shall be accepted and relied upon for purposes of issuing a birth record.

(b) In the absence of a record pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, a court may adjudicate a person as the parent of a child if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(1) prior to conception or birth of the child, the parties entered into an agreement that they both intended to be the parents of the child; or

(2) the person resided with the child after birth and undertook to develop a parental relationship with the child.

§ 705. LIMITATION ON SPOUSE'S DISPUTE OF PARENTAGE

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, a spouse may commence a proceeding to challenge his or her parentage of a child born by assisted reproduction during the marriage within two years after the birth of the child if the court finds that the spouse did not consent to the assisted reproduction before, on, or after the birth of the child or that the spouse withdrew consent pursuant to section 706 of this title.

(b) A spouse or the person who gave birth to the child may commence a proceeding to challenge the spouse's parentage of a child born by assisted reproduction at any time if the court determines:

(1) the spouse neither provided a gamete for, nor consented to, the assisted reproduction;

(2) the spouse and the person who gave birth to the child have not cohabited since the probable time of assisted reproduction; and

(3) the spouse never openly held out the child as the spouse's child.

(c) This section shall apply to a spouse's dispute of parentage even if the spouse's marriage is declared invalid after assisted reproduction occurs.

§ 706. EFFECT OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE OR WITHDRAWAL OF CONSENT

(a) If a marriage is dissolved before transfer or implantation of gametes or embryos, the former spouse is not a parent of the resulting child unless the former spouse consented in a signed record with notice to the other spouse and the person giving birth that, if assisted reproduction were to occur after a divorce, the former spouse would be a parent of the child.

(b) Consent of a person to assisted reproduction pursuant to section 704 of this title may be withdrawn by that person in a signed record with notice to the person giving birth and any other intended parent before transfer or implantation of gametes or embryos. A person who withdraws consent under this subsection is not a parent of the resulting child.

§ 707. PARENTAL STATUS OF DECEASED PERSON

(a) If a person who intends to be a parent of a child conceived by assisted reproduction dies during the period between the transfer of a gamete or embryo and the birth of the child, the person's death does not preclude the establishment of the person's parentage of the child if the person otherwise would be a parent of the child under this chapter.

(b)(1) If a person who consented in a record to assisted reproduction by the person giving birth to the child dies before transfer or implantation of gametes or embryos, the deceased person is not a parent of a child conceived by assisted reproduction unless:

(A) the deceased person consented in a record that if assisted reproduction were to occur after the death of the deceased person, the deceased person would be a parent of the child; or

(B) the deceased person's intent to be a parent of a child conceived by assisted reproduction after the person's death is established by a preponderance of the evidence.

(2) A person is a parent of a child conceived by assisted reproduction under subdivision (1) of this subsection only if:

(A) the embryo is in utero not later than 36 months after the person's death; or

(B) the child is born not later than 45 months after the person's death.

§ 708. BIRTH ORDERS

(a) A party consenting to assisted reproduction, a person who is a parent pursuant to sections 702-704 of this title, an intended parent or parents, or the person giving birth may commence a proceeding in the Probate Division of the Superior Court to obtain an order:

(1) declaring that the intended parent or parents are the parent or parents of the resulting child and ordering that parental rights and responsibilities vest exclusively in the intended parent or parents immediately upon the birth of the child;

(2) sealing the record from the public to protect the privacy of the child and the parties;

(3) designating the contents of the birth certificate and directing the Department of Health to designate the intended parent or parents as the parent or parents of the child; or

(4) for any relief that the court determines necessary and proper.

(b) A proceeding under this section may be commenced before or after the birth of the child.

(c) Neither the State nor the Department of Health is a necessary party to a proceeding under this section.

(d) The intended parent or parents and any resulting child shall have access to the court records relating to the proceeding at any time.

§ 709. LABORATORY ERROR

If due to a laboratory error the child is not genetically related to either of the intended parents, the intended parents are the parents of the child unless otherwise determined by the court.

CHAPTER 8. PARENTAGE BY GESTATIONAL CARRIER AGREEMENT

§ 801. ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER GESTATIONAL CARRIER AGREEMENT

(a) In order to execute an agreement to act as a gestational carrier, a person shall:

(1) be at least 21 years of age;

(2) have completed a medical evaluation that includes a mental health consultation;

(3) have had independent legal representation of the person's own choosing and paid for by the intended parent or parents regarding the terms of the gestational carrier agreement and have been advised of the potential legal consequences of the gestational carrier agreement; and

(4) not have contributed gametes that will ultimately result in an embryo that the gestational carrier will attempt to carry to term, unless the gestational carrier is entering into an agreement with a family member.

(b) Prior to executing a gestational carrier agreement, a person or persons intending to become a parent or parents, whether genetically related to the child or not, shall:

(1) be at least 21 years of age;

(2) have completed a medical evaluation and mental health consultation; and

(3) have retained independent legal representation regarding the terms of the gestational carrier agreement and have been advised of the potential legal consequences of the gestational carrier agreement.

§ 802. GESTATIONAL CARRIER AGREEMENT

(a) Written agreement. A prospective gestational carrier, that person's spouse, and the intended parent or parents may enter into a written agreement that:

(1) the prospective gestational carrier agrees to pregnancy by means of assisted reproduction;

(2) the prospective gestational carrier and that person's spouse have no rights and duties as the parents of a child conceived through assisted reproduction; and

(3) the intended parent or parents will be the parents of any resulting child.

(b) Enforceability. A gestational carrier agreement is enforceable only if it meets the following requirements:

(1) The agreement shall be in writing and signed by all parties.

(2) The agreement shall not require more than a one-year term to achieve pregnancy.

(3) At least one of the parties shall be a resident of this State.

(4) The agreement shall be executed before the commencement of any medical procedures other than the medical evaluations required by section 801 of this title and, in every instance, before transfer of embryos.

(5) The gestational carrier and the intended parent or parents shall meet the eligibility requirements of section 801 of this title.

(6) If any party is married, the party's spouse shall be a party to the agreement.

(7) The gestational carrier and the intended parent or parents shall be represented by independent legal counsel in all matters concerning the agreement and each counsel shall affirmatively so state in a written declaration attached to the agreement. The declarations shall state that the agreement meets the requirements of this title and shall be solely relied upon by health care providers and staff at the time of birth and by the Department of Health for birth registration and certification purposes.

(8) The parties to the agreement shall sign a written acknowledgment of having received a copy of the agreement.

(9) The signing of the agreement shall be witnessed and signed by at least one other person.

(10) The agreement shall expressly provide that the gestational carrier:

(A) shall undergo assisted reproduction and attempt to carry and give birth to any resulting child;

(B) has no claim to parentage of all resulting children to the intended parent or parents immediately upon the birth of the child or children regardless of whether a court order has been issued at the time of birth; and

(C) shall acknowledge the exclusive parentage of the intended parent or parents of all resulting children.

(11) If the gestational carrier is married, the carrier's spouse:

(A) shall acknowledge and agree to abide by the obligations imposed on the gestational carrier by the terms of the gestational carrier agreement;

(B) has no claim to parentage of any resulting children to the intended parent or parents immediately upon the birth of the children regardless of whether a court order has been issued at the time of birth; and

(C) shall acknowledge the exclusive parentage of the intended parent or parents of all resulting children.

(12) The gestational carrier shall have the right to use the services of a health care provider or providers of the gestational carrier's choosing to provide care during the pregnancy.

(13) The intended parent or parents shall:

(A) be the exclusive parent or parents and accept parental rights and responsibilities of all resulting children immediately upon birth regardless of the number, gender, or mental or physical condition of the child or children; and

(B) assume responsibility for the financial support of all resulting children immediately upon the birth of the children.

(c) Medical evaluations. If requested by a party or the court, a party shall provide records to the court and other parties related to the medical evaluations conducted pursuant to section 801 of this title.

(d) Reasonable consideration and expenses. Except as provided in section 809 of this title, a gestational carrier agreement may include provisions for payment of consideration and reasonable expenses to a prospective gestational carrier, provided they are negotiated in good faith between the parties.

(e) Decision of gestational carrier. A gestational agreement shall permit the gestational carrier to make all health and welfare decisions regarding the gestational carrier's health and pregnancy, and shall not enlarge or diminish the gestational carrier's right to terminate the pregnancy.

§ 803. PARENTAGE; PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(a)(1) If a gestational carrier agreement satisfies the requirements of this chapter, the intended parent or parents are the parent or parents of the resulting child immediately upon the birth of the child, and the resulting child is considered the child of the intended parent or parents immediately upon the birth of the child. Neither the gestational carrier nor the gestational carrier's spouse, if any, is the parent of the resulting child.

(2) A person who is determined to be a parent of the resulting child is obligated to support the child. The breach of the gestational carrier agreement by the intended parent or parents does not relieve the intended parent or parents of the obligation to support the resulting child.

(3) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, if genetic testing indicates a genetic relationship between the gestational carrier and the child, parentage shall be determined by the Family Division of the Superior Court pursuant to chapters 1 through 6 of this title.

(b) Parental rights and responsibilities shall vest exclusively in the intended parent or parents immediately upon the birth of the resulting child.

(c) If due to a laboratory error, the resulting child is not genetically related to either the intended parent or parents or any donor who donated to the intended parent or parents, the intended parent or parents are considered the parent or parents of the child.

§ 804. BIRTH ORDERS

(a) Before or after the birth of a resulting child, a party to a gestational carrier agreement may commence a proceeding in the Probate Division of the Superior Court to obtain an order doing any of the following:

(1) Declaring that the intended parent or parents are the parent or parents of the resulting child and ordering that parental rights and responsibilities vest exclusively in the intended parent or parents immediately upon the birth of the child.

(2) Designating the contents of the birth certificate and directing the Department of Health to designate the intended parent or parents as the parent or parents of the child. The Department of Health may charge a reasonable fee for the issuance of a birth certificate.

(3) Sealing the record from the public to protect the privacy of the child and the parties.

(4) Providing any relief the court determines necessary and proper.

(b) Neither the State nor the Department of Health is a necessary party to a proceeding under subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The intended parent or parents and any resulting child shall have access to their court records at any time.

§ 805. EXCLUSIVE, CONTINUING JURISDICTION

Subject to the jurisdictional standards of 15 V.S.A. § 1071, the court conducting a proceeding under this chapter has exclusive, continuing jurisdiction of all matters arising out of the gestational carrier agreement until a child born to the gestational carrier during the period governed by the agreement attains the age of 180 days.

§ 806. TERMINATION OF GESTATIONAL CARRIER AGREEMENT

(a) A party to a gestational carrier agreement may withdraw consent to any medical procedure and may terminate the gestational carrier agreement at any time prior to any embryo transfer or implantation by giving written notice of termination to all other parties.

(b) Upon termination of the gestational carrier agreement under subsection (a) of this section, the parties are released from all obligations recited in the agreement except that the intended parent or parents remain responsible for all expenses that are reimbursable under the agreement incurred by the gestational carrier through the date of termination. The gestational carrier is entitled to keep all payments received and obtain all payments to which the gestational carrier is entitled. Neither a prospective gestational carrier nor the gestational carrier's spouse, if any, is liable to the intended parent or parents for terminating a gestational carrier agreement.

§ 807. GESTATIONAL CARRIER AGREEMENT; EFFECT OF
SUBSEQUENT CHANGE OF MARITAL STATUS

Unless a gestational carrier agreement expressly provides otherwise:

(1) the marriage of a gestational carrier or of an intended parent after the agreement has been signed by all parties does not affect the validity of the agreement, the gestational carrier's spouse's consent or intended parent's spouse's consent to the agreement is not required, and the gestational carrier's spouse or intended parent's spouse is not a presumed parent of a child conceived by assisted reproduction under the agreement; and

(2) the divorce, dissolution, annulment, or legal separation of the gestational carrier or of an intended parent after the agreement has been signed by all parties does not affect the validity of the agreement.

§ 808. EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE; STANDARD OF REVIEW;
REMEDIES

(a) Not enforceable. A gestational carrier agreement that does not meet the requirements of this chapter is not enforceable.

(b) Standard of review. In the event of noncompliance with the requirements of this chapter or with a gestational carrier agreement, the Family Division of the Superior Court shall determine the respective rights and obligations of the parties to the gestational carrier agreement, including evidence of the intent of the parties at the time of execution.

(c) Remedies. Except as expressly provided in a gestational carrier agreement and in subsection (d) of this section, in the event of a breach of the gestational carrier agreement by the gestational carrier or the intended parent or parents, the gestational carrier or the intended parent or parents are entitled to all remedies available at law or in equity.

(d) Genetic testing. If a person alleges that the parentage of a child born to a gestational carrier is not the result of assisted reproduction, and this question is relevant to the determination of parentage, the court may order genetic testing.

(e) Specific performance. Specific performance is not an available remedy for a breach by the gestational carrier of any term in a gestational carrier agreement that requires the gestational carrier to be impregnated or to terminate a pregnancy. Specific performance is an available remedy for a breach by the gestational carrier of any term that prevents the intended parent or parents from exercising the full rights of parentage immediately upon the birth of the child.

§ 809. LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT OF GESTATIONAL CARRIER
HEALTH CARE COSTS

(a) The intended parent or parents are liable for the health care costs of the gestational carrier that are not paid by insurance. As used in this section, “health care costs” means the expenses of all health care provided for assisted reproduction, prenatal care, labor, and delivery.

(b) A gestational carrier agreement shall explicitly detail how the health care costs of the gestational carrier are paid. The breach of a gestational carrier agreement by a party to the agreement does not relieve the intended parent or parents of the liability for health care costs imposed by subsection (a) of this section.

(c) This section is not intended to supplant any health insurance coverage that is otherwise available to the gestational carrier or an intended parent for the coverage of health care costs. This section does not change the health insurance coverage of the gestational carrier or the responsibility of the insurance company to pay benefits under a policy that covers a gestational carrier.

Sec. 2. REPEAL

15 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 3A (parentage proceedings) is repealed.

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 4921(e)(1) is amended to read:

(e)(1) Upon request, relevant Department records or information created under this subchapter shall be disclosed to:

* * *

(F) a Family Division of the Superior Court involved in any proceeding in which:

(i) custody of a child or parent-child contact is at issue pursuant to 15 V.S.A. chapter 11, subchapter 3A;

(ii) a parent of a child challenges a presumption of parentage under 15C V.S.A. § 402(b)(3); or

(iii) a parent of a child contests an allegation that he or she fostered or supported a bonded and dependent relationship between the child and a person seeking to be adjudicated a de facto parent under 15C V.S.A. § 501(a)(2);

* * *

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 6911 is amended to read:

§ 6911. RECORDS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION

(a)(1) Information obtained through reports and investigations, including the identity of the reporter, shall remain confidential and shall not be released absent a court order, except as follows:

* * *

(C) Relevant information may be disclosed to a Family Division of the Superior Court, upon the request of that court, in any proceeding in which:

(i) a parent of a child challenges a presumption of parentage under 15C V.S.A. § 402(b)(3); or

(ii) a parent of a child contests an allegation that he or she fostered or supported a bonded and dependent relationship between the child and a person seeking to be adjudicated a de facto parent under 15C V.S.A. § 501(a)(2).

* * *

(c) The Commissioner or designee may disclose Registry information only to:

* * *

(11) A Family Division of the Superior Court upon request of that court if it is involved in any proceeding in which:

(A) a parent of a child challenges a presumption of parentage under 15C V.S.A. § 402(b)(3); or

(B) a parent of a child contests an allegation that he or she fostered or supported a bonded and dependent relationship between the child and a person seeking to be adjudicated a de facto parent under 15C V.S.A. § 501(a)(2).

* * *

Sec. 5. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

This title applies to a pending proceeding to adjudicate parentage commenced before the effective date of this act for an issue on which a judgment has not been rendered.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

*ALICE W. NITKA
RICHARD W. SEARS
JOSEPH C. BENNING*

*Committee on the part of the
Senate*

*MARTIN J. LALONDE
MAXINE JO GRAD
EILEEN G. DICKINSON*

Committee on the part of the House

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 Utility Commission shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Alicia Sacerio Humbert of Northfield – Family Division Magistrate – By Senator Benning for the Committee on Judiciary. (5/3/18)

Megan J. Shafritz of South Burlington – Superior Judge – By Senator Nitka for the Committee on Judiciary. (5/3/18)

Andrew Hathaway of Waterbury – Member, Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs – By Senator Cummings for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (4/19/18)