

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill No.
3 201 entitled “An act relating to length of stay at designated shelters”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 5303 is amended to read:

8 § 5303. PROCEDURE FOR RUNAWAY CHILDREN

9 (a) If an officer takes a child into custody pursuant to subdivision 5301(3)
10 of this title, the officer shall deliver the child to:

11 (1) the child’s custodial parent, foster parent, guardian, custodian, or
12 noncustodial parent lawfully exercising parent-child contact; or

13 (2) a shelter designated by the Department pursuant to section 5304 of
14 this title as qualified to assist children who have run away for the purpose of
15 reuniting them with their parents, guardian, or legal custodian.

16 (b) Upon delivery of a child to a shelter, the shelter program director or his
17 or her designee; shall notify the child’s parents, guardian, or custodian that the
18 child has been taken into custody and make reasonable efforts to mediate the
19 differences between the parties.

20 (c) A child may remain at a designated shelter for a period not to exceed
21 ~~seven~~ 21 days.

1 (d) Upon expiration of the ~~seven-day~~ 21-day period or sooner at the request
2 of the child or the custodial parent:

3 (1) the child shall be released to his or her custodial parent, foster
4 parent, guardian, custodian, or noncustodial parent lawfully exercising
5 parent-child contact; or

6 (2) an officer shall seek an emergency care order pursuant to section
7 5302 of this title.

8 (e) Unless otherwise ordered by the ~~Court~~ court, the custody status of the
9 child shall remain the same during the period of time the child is at the shelter.

10 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 5304 is amended to read:

11 § 5304. DESIGNATED SHELTERS FOR RUNAWAY CHILDREN

12 The Commissioner shall designate shelters throughout the State where a
13 child may be housed for a period not to exceed 21 days if he or she is:

14 (1) taken into custody pursuant to subdivision 5301(3) of this title ~~may~~
15 ~~be housed for a period not to exceed seven days; or~~

16 (2) referred by other means described in the policies of the Department
17 for Children and Families.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

20

21

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE