

S.222; Miscellaneous Judiciary Procedures; Summary of Senate Proposed  
Amendments

New Sec. 18 fixes outdated language in 15 V.S.A. § 811, the statute governing adult changes of name, that Probate Judges and court staff have been struggling with for a long time. The current statute requires the person to appear before the Probate Judge to sign and acknowledge a Petition for Change of Name. However, all the probate judges (excepting Chittenden County) are part-time and are not always at court. If the judge isn't at court or available, the petitioner must come back later or even another day, which often results in delays for people. The amendment permits the acknowledgement to be signed by the register of probate or by the court operations manager or a docket clerk. This allows the name change process to begin and makes it more accessible for people using the probate court.

New Sec. 19 pertains to Vermont's minimum automobile insurance requirements. Under existing law, all drivers must have an automobile liability policy in the amount of at least \$25k per person and \$50k for two or more persons killed or injured and \$10k for property damage per accident. These requirements have not been amended for over twenty years. This section requires the Commissioner of Financial Regulation to review Vermont's requirements in the context of the liability requirements in other states in the same region of the country. The Commissioner is required to report his or her findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1.