

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to which was referred House
3 Bill No. 780 entitled “An act relating to the inspection of amusement rides”
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. FINDINGS

8 The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Fairs are essential to the character, community life, and economy of
10 Vermont, and amusement rides help to increase fair attendance.

11 (2) Attendance at Vermont fairs exceeds 375,000 people a year and the
12 total budget for all Vermont fairs exceeds \$7 million a year. Vermont fairs
13 generate over \$85,000.00 of sales tax revenue per year.

14 (3) An inspection regime for amusement rides based upon standards that
15 are nationally recognized and used in other states will increase the safety of
16 fair rides and help ensure the continued popularity of Vermont fairs.

17 Sec. 2. 31 V.S.A. § 721 is amended to read:

18 § 721. DEFINITIONS

19 As used in this chapter:

20 (1) “Amusement ride” means a mechanical device that carries or
21 conveys passengers along, around, or over a fixed or restricted route or course

1 for the purpose of giving the passengers amusement, pleasure, thrills, or
2 excitement. ~~In addition, for the purposes of this chapter, amusement ride shall~~
3 ~~also include bungee jumping.~~

4 (2) “Operator” or “owner” means a person who owns or controls or has
5 the duty to control the operation of amusement rides.

6 (3) ~~“Certificate” or “certificate of operation” means a document issued~~
7 ~~by the Secretary of State authorizing the operation of one or more amusement~~
8 ~~rides, indicating thereon the following information for each amusement ride:~~
9 ~~the proper ride model, serial number, passenger capacity of the ride, the~~
10 ~~recommended maximum speed of the ride, and recommended direction of~~
11 ~~travel of the ride. The Secretary of State may amend a certificate to add other~~
12 ~~amusement rides to be operated in the State during a calendar year.~~

13 Sec. 2. 31 V.S.A. § 722 is amended to read:

14 § 722. CERTIFICATE OF OPERATION

15 (a) An amusement ride may not be operated in this State unless the
16 ~~Secretary of State~~ Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets has issued a
17 certificate of operation to the owner or operator.

18 (b) The ~~Secretary of State~~ Agency shall issue a “certificate of operation” ~~no~~
19 not later than 15 days before the amusement ride is first operated in the State,
20 if the owner or operator submits ~~all~~ the following:

1 (1) ~~Certificate~~ a certificate of insurance in the amount of not less than
2 \$1,000,000.00 that insures both the owner and the operator against liability for
3 injury to persons and property arising out of the use or operation of the
4 amusement ride;

5 (2) ~~Payment of a fee in the amount of \$100.00~~ a valid certificate of
6 inspection issued pursuant to section 723a of this title; and

7 (3) any other information or documentation that the Agency requests.

8 (c) The certificate of operation shall be valid for one year from the date of
9 issue and shall be in a manner and format to be prescribed by the Agency. A
10 certificate of operation shall identify the ride's:

11 (1) name and model;

12 (2) serial number;

13 (3) passenger capacity; and

14 (4) recommended maximum speed.

15 (d) A copy of the certificate of operation shall be ~~posted on or near each~~
16 ~~amusement ride covered by the certificate and shall be in full public view at all~~
17 ~~times during the operation of the ride~~ kept at the office of the amusement ride
18 operator.

19 (e) The Agency shall:

20 (1) determine the manner and format of the certificate of operation and
21 any forms to be used to apply for the certificate of operation;

1 (2) make any forms available on the Agency website;

2 (3) allow an owner or operator to apply for certificates of operation for
3 multiple rides at one time, using one form;

4 (4) charge a fee of \$100.00 for the filing of each application form,
5 regardless of the number of rides listed on the application.

6 Sec. 3. 31 V.S.A. § 723a is added to read:

7 § 723a. SAFETY INSPECTIONS

8 (a) An amusement ride shall not be operated in this State unless:

9 (1) The ride has been inspected within the preceding 12 months by a
10 person who is:

11 (A) certified:

12 (i) by the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety
13 Officials as a Level II Inspector;

14 (ii) by the Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers
15 International at a level that is equivalent to the certification pursuant to
16 subdivision (1) of this subsection; or

17 (iii) in a manner that the Agency of Agriculture, Food and
18 Markets determines is equivalent to the certifications pursuant to subdivision
19 (i) or (ii) of this subsection; and

20 (B) Not the owner or operator of the ride or an employee or agent of
21 the owner or operator.

- 1 (2) The inspection complied with the applicable standards
2 determined by:
3 (A) the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials;
4 (B) the Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers
5 International; or
6 (C) another organization that the Agency determines is equivalent to
7 the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials or the
8 Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers International.
9 (3) A valid certificate of operation has been issued for the ride pursuant
10 to section 722 of this title.
11 (b) After a ride has been inspected pursuant to subsection (a) of this
12 section, an adhesive sticker shall be affixed to the ride, or the ride shall be
13 stamped or otherwise marked in a manner that indicates:
14 (1) the date and location the inspection was completed; and
15 (2) the name of the inspector.
16 (c) A ride shall be inspected by the owner or operator:
17 (1) after the ride has been set up but before being used to carry or
18 convey passengers; and
19 (2) every day thereafter that the ride is used to carry or convey
20 passengers.

1 (d) The owner or operator of an amusement ride shall:

2 (1) keep records of all safety inspections in a manner and format to be
3 prescribed by the Agency;

4 (2) make those records available to the Agency promptly upon
5 request; and

6 (3) keep a paper copy of all safety inspections conducted by the owner
7 or operator during the preceding six months for each ride:

8 (A) on or near that ride; or

9 (B) at the office of the amusement ride operator.

10 Sec. 4. 31 V.S.A. § 723 is amended to read:

11 § 723. ~~OPERATIONS~~ OPERATOR AND PATRON RESPONSIBILITIES

12 (a) An operator of an amusement ride shall:

13 (1) be at least 18 years of age;

14 (2) operate only one amusement ride at a time; ~~and~~

15 (3) be in attendance at all times that the ride is operating; and

16 (4) exercise good judgement and act in a responsible and safe manner
17 while operating an amusement ride.

18 (b) An operator of an amusement ride may deny any person entrance to an
19 amusement ride if the operator believes that entrance by that person may
20 jeopardize the safety of the person or other persons.

- 1 (c) A patron shall:
- 2 (1) understand that there are risks in riding an amusement ride;
- 3 (2) exercise good judgement and act in a responsible and safe manner
- 4 while riding an amusement ride; and
- 5 (3) obey all written and verbal warnings and directions from ride
- 6 operators or owners.

7 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

9
10
11
12
13
14

(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE