



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REP. WILLIAM BOTZOW, CHAIR
REP. MICHAEL MARCOTTE, VICE CHAIR
REP. JEAN O'SULLIVAN, RANKING MEMBER
REP. MATTHEW HILL, CLERK
REP. ROBERT FRENIER
REP. CHARLES KIMBELL
REP. PATRICIA MCCOY
REP. LINDA K. MYERS
REP. AMY SHELDON
REP. VALERIE A. STUART
REP. LINDA JOY SULLIVAN

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Helen Head, Chair, House Committee on General,
Housing, and Military Affairs

From: Representative Bill Botzow, Chair, House Committee on Commerce and
Economic Development

Date: February 27, 2018

Subject: H.707, an act relating to the prevention of sexual harassment

Thank you for the opportunity to review the provisions of H.707, an act relating to the prevention of sexual harassment, that relate to this Committee's subject area.

After carefully considering testimony from the Office of Legislative Council and the Attorney General's Office, this Committee respectfully requests that the Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs propose in its report that Sec. 2 of H.707 be struck and replaced with new language in Sec. 1 of the bill that amends 21 V.S.A. § 495h(a). In particular, the Committee proposes the following language:

(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.

This amendment will provide protection against sexual harassment for all working relationships. In addition, the Committee further recommends that the report of the Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs include corresponding amendments to Secs. 3-5 of H.707 to ensure that those sections reflect the changes proposed above. The Committee voted 8-0-3 in favor of these amendments.