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H.385

Introduced by Representative Keenan of St. Albans City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; Human Rights Commission; jurisdiction

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission to include bullying

An act relating to the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. § 4552 is amended to read:

§ 4552. DUTIES; JURISDICTION

(a) The Commission shall endeavor through public education to increase awareness of the importance of full civil and human rights for each inhabitant of this State. The Commission shall also examine and evaluate generally the effectiveness of this chapter as well as the existence of practices of discrimination which detract from the enjoyment of full civil and human rights and shall recommend measures designed to protect those rights.

(b) 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, and

1 bullying as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(a)(32). The Commission shall also have
2 jurisdiction when the party complained against is a State agency in matters for
3 which the Attorney General would otherwise have jurisdiction under
4 subsection (c) of this section.

5 (c) All complaints of unlawful discrimination in violation of 21 V.S.A.
6 §§ 495 et seq. and 710, the Fair Employment Practices Act and the provisions
7 for workers' compensation discrimination, respectively, and of 21 V.S.A.
8 § 471 et seq. shall be referred to the Attorney General's office, for
9 investigation and enforcement.

10 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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