

From: Richards, Karen <Karen.Richards@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:47 AM
To: Loring Starr
Subject: HRC Reponses to the Committee's questions re H. 145

Hi Loring,
Below are my responses to your questions.

Human Rights Commission:

- a. Would the Human Rights Commission be an appropriate place to house this new commission? (Current bill draft houses it in AG's office.)

Response: It does seem that housing it in the AGO would present a possible conflict of interest since the Attorney General is the person who determines whether or not an officer has used excessive force. I think it could fit within the HRC's broader human rights mandate but there is no way that we could undertake this without additional resources.

- b. If so, would you need additional funds to support it?

Response: Yes, we would definitely need additional funding to support this. Right now my staff of 5 including me, is stretched very thinly, particularly our executive staff assistance who would end up with significant work out of this proposal. I believe it could be done with a half time person. The HRC could frankly use another half time person to increase outreach, etc. so with an additional half but preferably full time person, we could take this on.

- c. If not, any other suggestions for an organization to house the new commission?

Response: Center for Crime Victims Services? Defender General?

- d. Should someone from the Human Rights Commission be on this new commission?

Response: Yes, unless it was housed at HRC in which case I think some thought would need to be given as to whether it presents a conflict of some sort.

Thank you for reaching out to me. I will try to make it over to the Committee meeting on Thursday if that is when it is scheduled.

Karen

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