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Subject: Judiciary; Expanded Geographic Access to Treatment Court Dockets for Offenders with  
Substance Abuse Problems

Statement of purpose of bill: This bill proposes to expand geographic access for participation in treatment court dockets for offenders with substance abuse problems who are charged in a Superior Court unit that does not offer a relevant treatment court docket by providing a mechanism to change the venue of the case to a unit of the Superior Court that does offer the relevant treatment court docket.

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

Sec. 1. The General Assembly encourages the Supreme Court to adopt procedures under the authority of existing venue statutes and rules for the purpose of expanding the number of litigants who have access to existing treatment court dockets and problem-solving court dockets, including, without being limited to, procedures that authorize defendants in criminal proceedings in counties without applicable treatment court dockets or problem-solving dockets, to seek change of venue to transfer such a case to a unit of the Superior Court that has the relevant treatment court docket or problem-solving docket available.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.