TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 492 entitled “An act relating to Racial Justice Oversight Board” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 168 is added to read:

§ 168. RACIAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT BOARD

(a) The Racial Justice Oversight Board is established. The Board shall be organized and have the duties and responsibilities as provided in this section. The Board shall be organized within the Office of the Attorney General, and members of the Board shall be drawn from throughout the State and from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, age, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and shall have had experience working to implement racial justice reform.

(b) The Board shall comprise the following 14 members:

(1) four members to represent the interests of communities of color throughout the State, appointed by the Attorney General;

(2) the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council or designee;

(3) the Attorney General or designee;
(4) the Defender General or designee;

(5) the Executive Director of the State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs or
designee;

(6) the Chief Superior Judge or designee;

(7) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

(8) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

(9) the Director of the Vermont State Police or designee;

(10) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission
or designee; and

(11) the Executive Director of the Vermont chapter of the ACLU or
designee.

(c) The terms of members shall be four years. As terms of currently
serving members expire, appointments of successors shall be in accord with
the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Appointments of members to
fill vacancies or expired terms shall be made by the authority that made the
initial appointment to the vacated or expired term. Members of the Board shall
be eligible for reappointment.

(d) Members of the Board shall elect biennially by majority vote the Chair
of the Board. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their
services, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses in the manner and
amount provided to employees of the State.
(e) Seven members shall constitute a quorum of the Board. Once a quorum has been established, the vote of a majority of the members present at the time of the vote shall be an act of the Board.

(f) The Board shall undertake an ongoing formal review of racial justice reform across the State, including within the systems of criminal and juvenile justice, by monitoring the collection and publication of race-based data, recommending policies and trainings to address systemic implicit bias, and evaluating racial justice policies, practices, and results statewide, including determining whether there is variation across the State and the cause of any such variation. In furtherance of that responsibility, the Board shall:

(1) monitor law enforcement compliance with the requirements of 20 V.S.A. § 2366;

(2) continually review the data collected pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2366 to measure State progress toward a fair and impartial system of law enforcement;

(3) provide recommendations to the Criminal Justice Training Council and the Vermont Bar Association, based on the latest social science research and best practices in law enforcement and criminal and juvenile justice, on model trainings and policies for law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, judges, and correctional officers to recognize and address implicit bias:
(4) monitor the adoption and implementation of the Board’s recommended implicit bias trainings and policies pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection, and advise the Vermont Bar Association and Criminal Justice Training Council on progress towards statewide adoption and implementation;

(5) provide recommendations to the Criminal Justice Training Council, based on the latest social science research and best practices in law enforcement, on a model training and policy on the use of force in policing;

(6) in collaboration with the Criminal Justice Training Council:

(A) monitor the incorporation of implicit bias training into the requirements of basic training pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358; and

(B) monitor the implementation of the refresher trainings as required by 20 V.S.A. § 2358(e);

(7) educate and inform businesses, educational institutions, State and local governments, and the general public about the nature and scope of racial discrimination and the systemic and institutionalized nature of race-based bias;

(8) advise and consult with the Executive and Legislative Branches of State government on the assessment of racial impact of policies and legislation; and

(9) on or before January 15, 2018, and annually thereafter, report to the General Assembly, and provide as a part of that report recommendations on:
(A) methods of oversight and professional regulation of the systems for criminal and juvenile justice, including a statewide program for civilian oversight of law enforcement;

(B) instituting a public complaint process to address misconduct in the systems for criminal and juvenile justice;

(C) expanding jurisdiction of the Board to address institutionalized racism in education, health services access, employment, and housing policy;

(D) prohibiting racial profiling, including any associated penalties;

(E) requiring law enforcement to expand its race data collection practices to include data on non-traffic stops by law enforcement and all use of force interactions with civilians; and

(F) amending the Vermont Constitution to clarify that slavery in any form is prohibited.

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 2358(e) is amended to read:

(e)(1) The criteria for all minimum training standards under this section shall include anti-bias, appropriate use of force, and deescalation training approved by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council and training on the State, county, or municipal law enforcement agency’s fair and impartial policing policy, adopted pursuant to subsection 2366(a) of this title.

(2) On or before December 31, 2018, law enforcement officers shall receive a minimum of four hours of training as required by this subsection.
(3) In order to remain certified, law enforcement officers shall receive a refresher course on the training required by this subsection during every odd-numbered year in a program approved by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council.

(4) All training completed by law enforcement officers shall be reported to the Criminal Justice Training Council and the Racial Justice Oversight Board on or before April 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, and shall be made publicly available.

Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 2366 is amended to read:

§ 2366. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING POLICY; RACE DATA COLLECTION

(a)(1) On or before January 1, 2016, the Criminal Justice Training Council, in consultation with stakeholders, including the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Human Rights Commission, and Migrant Justice, shall create a model fair and impartial policing policy. On or before July 1, 2016, every State, local, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and every constable who exercises law enforcement authority pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1936a and who is trained in compliance with section 2358 of this title shall adopt a fair and impartial policing policy that includes, at a minimum, the elements of the Criminal Justice Training Council model fair and impartial policing policy in its entirety.
(2) On or before October 1, 2017 and every odd-numbered year thereafter, the Criminal Justice Training Council, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Human Rights Commission, the Vermont chapter of the ACLU, Migrant Justice, Justice for All, the Racial Justice Oversight Board, and law enforcement shall review and, if necessary, update the model fair and impartial policing policy.

(b)(1) Every law enforcement agency and constable that is required to adopt a policy pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall submit its new or modified policy to the Attorney General, who shall determine whether the policy complies with the requirements of subsection (a) of this subsection.

(2) If a law enforcement agency or constable that is required to adopt a policy pursuant to subsection (a) of this section fails to do so on or before July 1, 2016, or the Attorney General determines that the policy does not comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, that agency or constable shall be deemed to have adopted, and shall follow and enforce, the model policy issued by the Criminal Justice Training Council.

(c) On or before September 15, 2014, and annually thereafter as part of their annual training report to the Council, every State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and every constable who exercises law enforcement authority pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1936a and who is trained in compliance with
section 2358 of this title shall report to the Council and to the Racial Justice Oversight Board whether the agency or officer has adopted a fair and impartial policing policy in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of this section. The Criminal Justice Training Council shall determine, as part of the Council’s annual certification of training requirements, whether current officers have received training on fair and impartial policing as required by 20 V.S.A. § 2358(e).

(d) On or before October 15, 2014, and annually thereafter on April 1, the Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary which departments and officers have adopted a fair and impartial policing policy, and whether officers have received training on fair and impartial policing. The Racial Justice Oversight Board shall report this information to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary annually on or before May 1.

(e)(1) On or before September 1, 2014, every State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency shall collect roadside stop data consisting of the following:

(A) the age, gender, and race of the driver;
(B) the reason for the stop;
(C) the type of search conducted, if any;
(D) the evidence located, if any; and
(E) the outcome of the stop, including whether:

(i) a written warning was issued;

(ii) a citation for a civil violation was issued;

(iii) a citation or arrest for a misdemeanor or a felony occurred; or

(iv) no subsequent action was taken.

(2) Law enforcement agencies shall work with the Criminal Justice Training Council Racial Justice Oversight Board and a vendor chosen by the Council Board with the goals of collecting uniform data, adopting uniform storage methods and periods, and ensuring that data can be analyzed. Roadside stop data, as well as reports and analysis of roadside stop data, shall be public.

(3) On or before September 1, 2016 and annually thereafter, law enforcement agencies shall provide the data collected under this subsection to the Racial Justice Oversight Board or a vendor chosen by the Criminal Justice Training Council Board under subdivision (2) of this subsection or, in the event the vendor is unable to continue receiving data under this section, to the Council Board. Law enforcement agencies shall provide the data collected under this subsection in an electronic format specified by the receiving entity.

(4) The data provided pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be posted electronically in a manner that is analyzable and accessible to the public on the receiving agency’s website.
Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: ___________)

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Representative _____________

FOR THE COMMITTEE