

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate  
3 Bill No. 198 entitled “An act relating to a plan to elevate the Department of  
4 Public Safety to the Agency of Public Safety” respectfully reports that it has  
5 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out  
6 all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

8 (a) Purpose. The purpose of this act is for the Commissioner of Public  
9 Safety to provide the General Assembly with recommendations at the  
10 beginning of each of the next three bienniums that address different issues  
11 regarding elevating the Department of Public Safety to the Agency of Public  
12 Safety.

13 (b) Intent. The intent of the General Assembly is to elevate the Department  
14 to an Agency. In doing so, the General Assembly intends to consider the  
15 recommendations provided by the Commissioner and to enact legislation in  
16 each of the next three bienniums that addresses the issues requested to be  
17 reported on by the Commissioner, including reorganizing the existing  
18 Department, potentially adding functions to it, and determining the future  
19 Agency’s overall purpose.

1       Sec. 2. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY; PROPOSED PLAN FOR  
2                   THE CREATION OF THE AGENCY OF PUBLIC SAFETY

3           The Commissioner of Public Safety, in making the recommendations  
4           described in this section regarding elevating the Department of Public Safety to  
5           the Agency of Public Safety, shall consult with the Governor and heads of  
6           other offices that may be impacted. In all of his or her recommendations, the  
7           Commissioner shall consider the potential for economies of scale, reduction of  
8           redundancies, and coordination of grant administration and the potential to  
9           allow for more strategic thinking, consistency and accountability; coordination  
10          of training; and operational flexibility. The Commissioner shall submit all  
11          recommendations to the Senate and House Committees on Government  
12          Operations.

13           (1)(A) On or before January 15, 2019, the Commissioner shall propose  
14          how to elevate the Department to the Agency, including how to internally  
15          reorganize the existing subdivisions of the Department to create a more  
16          effective system that better uses all of the Department's resources, what  
17          departments should comprise the Agency, and the overall proposed role of the  
18          Agency as law enforcement, regulatory, or both.

19           (B) This report shall specifically address whether law enforcement  
20          officers currently employed by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife, of  
21          Liquor Control, and of Motor Vehicles should be under the jurisdiction of the

1 Agency, and whether the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board, the Vermont Criminal  
2 Justice Training Council, the Vermont Fire Service Training Council, and the  
3 Robert H. Wood, Jr. Criminal Justice and Fire Service Training Center of  
4 Vermont should be placed under the Agency, and if so, whether those entities  
5 should maintain independent governing boards.

6 (2)(A) On or before January 15, 2021, the Commissioner shall report on  
7 whether additional functions and departments should be moved to the Agency.

8 (B) This report shall specifically address whether the Departments of  
9 Liquor Control, of Lottery, of Motor Vehicles, and of Corrections, the Capitol  
10 Police Department, and any other State entities should be moved under the  
11 jurisdiction of the Agency.

12 (3)(A) On or before January 15, 2023, the Commissioner shall report on  
13 how the Agency can provide the best resources to the State and its political  
14 subdivisions, including how the Agency can work with local law enforcement  
15 agencies to provide resources, leadership, collaboration, and coordination.

16 (B) This report shall specifically address how to develop a true  
17 statewide system of public safety using all of the resources that are available  
18 statewide, while still allowing local law enforcement agencies to maintain  
19 autonomy.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on passage.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7

Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE