

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 502  
3 entitled “An act relating to modernizing Vermont’s parentage laws”  
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in  
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT

8 Current Vermont law provides detailed guidance as to the legal and physical  
9 rights and responsibilities of parents, if they marry and divorce, with respect to  
10 their biological children or stepchildren. However, statutory law has not kept  
11 pace with the changing nature of today’s families. Through this act, the  
12 General Assembly seeks to assemble attorneys and members with particular  
13 expertise in these matters, who can examine parentage laws in other  
14 jurisdictions and develop a proposal for the General Assembly to consider  
15 during the 2018 legislative session that integrates with our existing laws best  
16 practices for providing for the best interest of the child in various types of  
17 parentage proceedings.

18 Sec. 2. PARENTAGE STUDY COMMITTEE

19 (a) Creation. There is created the Parentage Study Committee to examine  
20 and provide recommendations with regard to modernizing Vermont’s  
21 parentage laws in recognition of the changing nature of the family.

1        (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following  
2        members:

3            (1) a judge or Justice appointed by the Chief Superior Judge;

4            (2) a member appointed by the Commissioner for Children and  
5        Families;

6            (3) an attorney appointed by the Director of the Office of Child Support;

7            (4) two members appointed by the Vermont Bar Association who are  
8        attorneys experienced in parentage issues related to reproductive technology  
9        and surrogacy; and

10          (5) one member who is a medical professional with expertise in  
11        reproductive technology, who is appointed by the other members of the  
12        Committee at its first meeting.

13          (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study how Vermont's  
14        parentage laws should be updated to address various issues that have come  
15        before the courts in recent years and issues that have arisen and been addressed  
16        in other New England states on these matters, including assisted reproductive  
17        technology and de facto parentage.

18          (d) Report. On or before October 1, 2017, the Committee shall submit a  
19        written report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary, the Senate  
20        Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House Committee on Human  
21        Services with its findings and recommendations for legislative action.

1       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2           This act shall take effect on passage.

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5           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE

