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H.336

Introduced by Representatives Townsend of South Burlington, Christensen of Weathersfield, Cordes of Lincoln, Gardner of Richmond, James of Manchester, Jerome of Brandon, Killacky of South Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Leffler of Enosburgh, McCullough of Williston, Mrowicki of Putney, Notte of Rutland City, O’Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Sullivan of Dorset, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Walz of Barre City, White of Hartford, Yacovone of Morristown, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Domestic relations; abuse prevention; emotional abuse

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a person to obtain a relief from abuse order against a family or household member based upon psychological abuse.

An act relating to including psychological abuse as the basis for obtaining a civil abuse protection order

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

2 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

3 The General Assembly finds that:

4 (1) According to the report Intimate Partner Violence in the United  
5 States, issued by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the  
6 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 95 percent of men who physically  
7 abuse their intimate partners also psychologically abuse them.

8 (2) Seven out of 10 psychologically abused women display symptoms of  
9 post-traumatic stress disorder or depression, or both, with psychological abuse  
10 being a greater predictor of post-traumatic stress disorder than physical abuse.

11 (3) Women experiencing psychological abuse are significantly more  
12 likely to report poor physical and mental health and to have more than five  
13 physician visits in a year.

14 Sec. 2. 15 V.S.A. § 1101 is amended to read:

15 § 1101. DEFINITIONS

16 The following words as used in this chapter shall have the following  
17 meanings:

18 (1) "Abuse" means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts  
19 between family or household members:

20 (A) Attempting to cause or causing physical harm.

21 (B) Placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm.

