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H.564

Introduced by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington and Grad of  
Moretown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Criminal procedures; inquests

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that records related to an inquest proceeding, other than records related to the evidentiary hearing, be made public after a charging decision has been made.

An act relating to inquests and public records

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

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 5138 is added to read:

§ 5138. INQUEST RECORDS PUBLIC

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, records related to an inquest conducted pursuant to this chapter shall be made public after the prosecutor has determined whether criminal charges will be brought.

(b) Records related to an evidentiary hearing conducted pursuant to this chapter to determine whether there is probable cause to commence a criminal prosecution shall be confidential and not made public under subsection (a) of this section.

1       Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.