

1 H.857

2 Introduced by Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Anthony of Barre
3 City, Cina of Burlington, Colston of Winooski, Gonzalez of
4 Winooski, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Redmond of Essex, and
5 Yantachka of Charlotte

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Recreation and sports; ski areas and tramways

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require ski
10 area operators to adopt a safety plan and annually report data concerning skiing
11 accidents.

12 An act relating to ski area operators and skiing accident reports

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

14 Sec. 1. 31 V.S.A. chapter 15 is amended to read:

15 CHAPTER 15. ~~SKI TRAMWAYS~~ SKIING

16 Subchapter 1. Ski Tramways

17 * * *

18 Subchapter 2. Ski Area Operators

19 § 718. DEFINITIONS

20 As used in this subchapter:

1 (1) “Accident” means any incident requiring one or more persons to be
2 transported from the ski area to a medical facility.

3 (2) “Number of skiing days” means an accounting of the number of
4 times a person purchases a ski tramway ticket or uses a season pass at a ski
5 area during the ski area’s operational season.

6 (3) “Ski area operator” means a person who owns or controls the
7 operation of a ski area or passenger tramway. “Ski area operator” includes the
8 State and its political subdivisions.

9 (4) “Terrain difficulty rating” means the designation, related symbols,
10 and other criteria used by a ski area operator to communicate the difficulty of
11 the skiing terrain.

12 (5) “Trauma score” means the trauma scoring system used by
13 emergency medical professionals prior to the transport of an injured person,
14 including the Glasgow Coma Scale, blood pressure, respiratory rate, and any
15 evidence of external hemorrhage.

16 § 719. SAFETY PLAN AND ACCIDENT REPORT

17 (a) On or before January 1 of each year, a ski area operator shall adopt a
18 safety plan. The safety plan shall describe the practices employed by a ski area
19 operator to prevent accidents and reduce the severity of injuries. Each plan
20 shall include details concerning:

21 (1) management and operational roles;

1 (2) compliance monitoring;

2 (3) applicable policies and procedures; and

3 (4) training materials.

4 (b) On or before July 1 of each year, a ski area operator shall report on all
5 skiing accidents from the previous year. The report shall include:

6 (1) the number of skiing and snowboarding accidents that occurred at
7 the ski area;

8 (2) the cause of each accident at the ski area, including a fall while on
9 skis or a snowboard, a fall from a tramway, or a collision with another person
10 or a fixed object;

11 (3) the anatomical location and trauma score of any injury resulting
12 from each accident;

13 (4) the age, sex, and number of skiing days of each person involved in
14 each accident at the ski area; and

15 (5) the location of each accident at the ski area and any terrain difficulty
16 rating associated with that location.

17 (c) A ski area operator shall publish the plan and report required by this
18 section on its publicly accessible website and submit the plan and report to the
19 House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs; the Senate
20 Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs; and the

1 Passenger Tramway Board. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of
2 required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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