

# Senate Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019**

**Third Reading**

**S. 47.**

An act relating to the persons authorized to make contributions to candidates and political parties.

**House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment**

**H. 97**

An act relating to fiscal year 2019 budget adjustments

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendments thereto as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 47 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 47 to read as follows:

Sec. 47. [Deleted.]

Second: By striking out Sec. 49 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 49 to read as follows:

Sec. 49. 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. B.813 is amended to read:

Sec. B.813 Total commerce and community development

Source of funds

General fund	15,902,584	15,932,584
Special funds	18,557,328	18,557,328
Federal funds	25,950,869	25,950,869
Interdepartmental transfers	110,751	110,751
Enterprise funds	<u>650,605</u>	<u>650,605</u>
Total	61,172,137	61,202,137

Third: In Sec. 56, by striking out subsection (e) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The following General Fund amount shall be reserved for appropriation or transfer in the fiscal year 2020 budget: \$12,350,000.

Fourth: In Sec. 60, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) It is the public policy of the State of Vermont to move to a continuum of mental health care that is fully integrated within the health care system. In recognition that Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs) are an essential part of the current continuum of care, the Secretary of Human Services may seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 waiver as it relates to receiving expenditure authority for the treatment of serious mental illness provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 73 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 73 to read as follows:

Sec. 73. 32 V.S.A. § 10402 is amended to read:

§ 10402. HEALTH CARE CLAIMS TAX

(a) There is imposed on every health insurer an annual tax in an amount equal to ~~0.999~~ 0.8 of one percent of all health insurance claims paid by the health insurer for its Vermont members in the previous fiscal year ending June 30. The annual fee shall be paid to the Commissioner of Taxes in one installment due by on or before January 1.

(b) Revenues paid and collected under this chapter shall be deposited as follows: into the General Fund.

~~(1) 0.199 of one percent of all health insurance claims into the Health IT-Fund established in section 10301 of this title; and~~

~~(2) 0.8 of one percent of all health insurance claims into the General Fund.~~

(c) The annual cost to obtain Vermont Healthcare Claims Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) data, pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9410, for use by the Department of Taxes shall be paid from ~~the Vermont Health IT-Fund and the General Fund in the same proportion as revenues are deposited into those Funds.~~

\* \* \*

Sixth: In Sec. 88, by striking out subdivisions (a)(2) and (a)(3) in their entirety and by striking out subdivision (a)(6)(A) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (a)(6)(A) to read as follows:

(A) \$250,000 to be reserved to fund contracted services for research and findings to identify and examine the factors contributing to Vermont's high

rate of children entering the custody of the State. Such research shall study the preventive and upstream services and interventions provided to families and the extent to which these supports to families have demonstrated effectiveness in allowing children to remain with their families. Policy recommendations resulting from this research is intended to inform funding decisions regarding these services to ensure the safety of Vermont's vulnerable children and to enhance the long-term stability and well-being of these families.

And at the end of subdivision (a)(6)(B) by adding a new sentence to read as follows: The report shall be submitted to the General Assembly on or before December 15, 2019.

And by renumbering the subdivisions to be numerically correct

Seventh: In Sec. 91, by striking out subdivision (b)(1)(D) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (b)(1)(D) to read as follows:

(D) \$700,000 allocated in fiscal year 2019 and carried forward to fiscal year 2020 pending submission of a proposal. The CHINS workgroup shall continue its evaluation of strategic reforms to the CHINS system and may submit a proposal to the General Assembly for approval. The proposal shall have a budget and proposed method of evaluation.

Eighth: By striking out Sec. 93 in its entire and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 93 to read as follows:

Sec. 93. VIDEO RECORDS RETENTION POLICY  
RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) On or before March 15, 2019, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Appropriations on the status of record schedules, as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 117(a)(6), that have been approved by the State Archivist and on the status of internal proposed video records management retention policies for the Vermont State Police and Vermont law enforcement agencies that apply to dash-mounted or body-mounted camera video. The report shall include any proposed changes to the record schedules and policies, including recommendations for whether policies should be adopted or changed with respect to:

(1) the retention period for storage of such video;

(2) the process for determining when a particular case or incident warrants retaining video records for longer than the standard schedule;

(3) the manner in which the public shall be notified and kept informed about record schedules; and

(4) the budget and estimated costs for the storage of video records with a cloud-based service, including a comparison of the costs of cloud-based storage and the existing on-site physical storage, and whether cloud-based storage creates greater efficiencies in the overall management of video records.

(b) The Commissioner shall consult with the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA) and the Agency of Digital Services for purposes of making the proposals required by subsection (a) of this section.

(c) On or before April 15, 2019, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall report the final proposed record schedules and management policies to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Appropriations.

Ninth: In Sec. 94, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) Given the loss of federal matching funds for the Woodside facility, on or before April 15, 2019 the Secretary of Human Services and the Commissioner for Children and Families, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, shall submit a plan to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Appropriations related to the continuation of operations beyond July 1, 2019 limited only to short-term placements of delinquent youths. Any plan should be consistent with legislative intent related to loss of federal funding expressed in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. E.327. Any plan should also consider the role of Woodside in the system of care and evaluate the current need and other treatment options for youths in Vermont and out-of-state.

Tenth: In Sec. 101, in subsection (a), by inserting five new subdivisions to be numbered (5) through (9) to read as follows:

(5) JFO #2950 - One (1) limited-service position within the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. The position would be titled Environmental Analyst V and would provide engineering support within the wastewater system and potable water supply program to review permit application through the Department of Environmental Conservation's five regional offices. The position would be funded with approximately \$95,000 annually through a federal award from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Department is seeking authorization for the position for two years from the date of authorization.

(6) JFO #2951 - One (1) limited-service position within the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The position would be titled Agricultural Water Quality Specialist II and would provide additional capacity for the Agency to perform its commitments to the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) under the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Specifically, this position would support the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which is a program that compensates agricultural landowners for taking land out of production for a period of time and also provides cost-share for the establishment of vegetative buffers between agricultural land and waterways. The position would be funded from two sources: 1) a sub-grant from the Agency of Natural Resources that will leverage 2) grant funding from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

(7) JFO #2952 - One (1) limited-service position within the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The position would be titled Agricultural Engineer I and would provide additional capacity for the Agency to perform its commitments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Specifically, this position would support the agricultural best management practices (BMP) program and the environmental quality incentives program. The position would provide engineering and hydrogeology assistance with agricultural waste management systems, environmental monitoring and other projects aimed at reducing environmental contamination from agricultural operations. The position would be funded by a sub-grant of federal funds from the Agency of Natural Resources.

(8) JFO #2953 - \$199,160 from the U.S. Dept. of Justice to the Vermont Department of Corrections. The funds would be used to develop a strategic plan for a system-wide approach to enhance employment outcomes of offenders who are reentering the workforce. The effort would be focused on student assessments and increasing capacity within the culinary program in the corrections kitchen. Funds would be distributed between two personal service contracts, a workforce skills certification system, a pro-start culinary trainer certification, and other supplies/packages. The planning effort would be completed through the remainder of State fiscal year 2019 and part of fiscal year 2020.

(9) JFO #2954 - \$2,295,876 from the U.S. Dept. of Labor to the Vermont Department of Labor. The funding is being provided through Phase I of the Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN) demonstration project. The overall project would be focused on developing early intervention strategies to improve stay-at-work/return-to-work (SAW/RTW) outcomes for individuals who experience a work disability while employed. One (1) limited-service position, titled Grant Manager, is associated with this request. Phase I, which is estimated to last for 18 months, would be focused on project development, while phase II would focus on

broader implementation and funding for phase II would be awarded based on the outcomes of phase I. The project would be 100 percent federally funded.

Eleventh: In Sec. 103, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) The Department of Mental Health shall explore solutions to improve therapeutic care and supports for patients in emergency departments that includes the study of security protocols in emergency departments to ensure the safety of patients and hospital staff and compliance with federal regulations in consultation with:

(1) the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems;

(2) DAIL – Licensing and Protection;

(3) Vermont Care Partners;

(4) the Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs; and

(5) an individual who provides peer support services in an emergency department, appointed by Vermont Psychiatric Survivors.

Twelfth: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 104 to read as follows:

Sec. 104. JUDICIARY; FEDERAL TITLE IV-D FUNDS

(a) Any general funds added to the Judiciary to compensate for errors in billing for eligible federal Title IV-D funds that are greater than the actual lost funds resulting from the errors shall be carried forward to offset Title IV-D funding impacts in the fiscal year 2020 Judiciary budget.

And by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Third Reading**

#### **S. 49.**

An act relating to the regulation of polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking and surface waters.

#### **S. 95.**

An act relating to municipal utility capital investment.



## Second Reading

### Favorable

#### S. 42.

An act relating to requiring at least one member of the Green Mountain Care Board to be a health care professional.

**Reported favorably by Senator Westman for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

#### S. 65.

An act relating to banning baby bumper pads.

**Reported favorably by Senator McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

### Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

#### S. 37.

An act relating to medical monitoring damages.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sears for the Committee on Judiciary.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

\* \* \* Strict Liability; Toxic Substance Release \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 5 is added to read:

#### Subchapter 5. Strict Liability for Toxic Substance Release

#### § 6685. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Establishment” means any premises used for the purpose of carrying on or exercising any trade, business, profession, vocation, commercial or charitable activity, or governmental function.

(2) “Facility” means all contiguous land, structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land where toxic substances are manufactured, processed, used, or stored. A facility may consist of several treatment, storage, or disposal operational units. A facility shall not include

land, structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land owned by a municipality.

(3) “Harm” means any personal injury or property damage.

(4) “Large facility” means a facility:

(A) where 10 or more full-time employees have been employed at any one time; or

(B)(i) where an activity within the Standard Industrial Classification code of 20 through 39 is conducted or was conducted; and

(ii) that is owned or operated by a person who, when all facilities or establishments that the person owns or controls are aggregated, has employed 500 employees at any one time.

(5) “Person” means any individual; partnership; company; corporation; association; unincorporated association; joint venture; trust; municipality; the State of Vermont or any agency, department, or subdivision of the State; federal agency; or any other legal or commercial entity.

(6) “Release” means any intentional or unintentional, permitted or unpermitted, act or omission that allows a toxic substance to enter the air, land, surface water, groundwater, or any other place where the toxic substance may be located.

(7)(A) “Toxic substance” means any substance, mixture, or compound that has the capacity to produce personal injury or illness to humans through ingestion, inhalation, or absorption through any body surface and that satisfies one or more of the following:

(i) the substance, mixture, or compound is listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Consolidated List of Chemicals Subject to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, and Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act;

(ii) the substance, mixture, or compound is defined as a “hazardous material” under section 6602 of this title or under rules adopted under this chapter;

(iii) testing has produced evidence, recognized by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, that the substance, mixture, or compound poses acute or chronic health hazards;

(iv) the Department of Health has issued a public health advisory for the substance, mixture, or compound;

(v) the Secretary of Natural Resources has designated the substance, mixture, or compound as a hazardous waste under this chapter; or

(vi) the substance can be shown by expert testimony to cause harm.

(B) “Toxic substance” shall not mean:

(i) a pesticide regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets; or

(ii) ammunition or components thereof, firearms, air rifles, discharge of firearms or air rifles, or hunting or fishing equipment or components thereof.

#### § 6686. LIABILITY FOR RELEASE OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES

(a) Any person who releases a toxic substance from a large facility shall be held strictly, jointly, and severally liable for any harm resulting from the release.

(b) Any person held liable under subsection (a) of this section shall have the right to seek contribution from the manufacturer of the toxic substance that was released.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or diminish in any way existing remedies available to a person or the State at common law or under statute.

#### Sec. 2. REPEAL; STRICT LIABILITY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCE RELEASE

10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 5 (strict liability for toxic substance releases) shall be repealed on July 1, 2024.

#### Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION; REPORT ON INSURANCE POLICY PRICING AND AVAILABILITY

(a) The Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall monitor how the imposition of strict liability for toxic substance releases pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 5 affects the pricing and availability of commercial general liability insurance policies, residential homeowner’s insurance policies, and other insurance policies in the State. The Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall evaluate whether:

(1) insurance policies in the State are more expensive or less available due to the strict liability provisions of 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 5; and

(2) the insurance market in the State is negatively affected in comparison to the national market solely due to the strict liability provisions of 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 5.

(b) On or before January 15, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall report to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development the results of its evaluation under subsection (a) of this section.

\* \* \* Medical Monitoring \* \* \*

Sec. 4. 12 V.S.A. chapter 219 is added to read:

#### CHAPTER 219. MEDICAL MONITORING

##### § 7201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Disease” means any disease, illness, ailment, or adverse physiological or chemical change linked with exposure to a toxic substance.

(2) “Establishment” means any premises used for the purpose of carrying on or exercising any trade, business, profession, vocation, commercial or charitable activity, or governmental function.

(3) “Exposure” means ingestion, inhalation, contact with the skin or eyes, or any other physical contact.

(4) “Facility” means all contiguous land, structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land where toxic substances are manufactured, processed, used, or stored. A facility may consist of several treatment, storage, or disposal operational units. A facility shall not include land, structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land owned by a municipality.

(5) “Large facility” means a facility:

(A) where 10 or more full-time employees have been employed at any one time; or

(B)(i) where an activity within the Standard Industrial Classification code of 20 through 39 is conducted or was conducted; and

(ii) that is owned or operated by a person who, when all facilities or establishments that the person owns or controls are aggregated, has employed 500 employees at any one time.

(6) “Medical monitoring” means a program of medical surveillance, including medical tests or procedures for the purpose of early detection of signs or symptoms of latent disease resulting from exposure.

(7) “Person” means any individual; partnership; company; corporation; association; unincorporated association; joint venture; trust; municipality; the State of Vermont or any agency, department, or subdivision of the State; federal agency; or any other legal or commercial entity.

(8) “Release” means any intentional or unintentional, permitted or unpermitted, act or omission that allows a toxic substance to enter the air, land, surface water, groundwater, or any other place where the toxic substance may be located.

(9)(A) “Toxic substance” means any substance, mixture, or compound that has the capacity to produce personal injury or illness to humans through ingestion, inhalation, or absorption through any body surface and that satisfies one or more of the following:

(i) the substance, mixture, or compound is listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Consolidated List of Chemicals Subject to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, and Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act;

(ii) the substance, mixture, or compound is defined as a “hazardous material” under 10 V.S.A. § 6602 or under rules adopted under 10 V.S.A. chapter 159;

(iii) testing has produced evidence, recognized by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, that the substance, mixture, or compound poses acute or chronic health hazards;

(iv) the Department of Health has issued a public health advisory for the substance, mixture, or compound; or

(v) the Secretary of Natural Resources has designated the substance, mixture, or compound as a hazardous waste under 10 V.S.A. chapter 159; or

(vi) exposure to the substance can be shown by expert testimony to increase the risk of developing a latent disease.

(B) “Toxic substance” shall not mean:

(i) a pesticide regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets; or

(ii) ammunition or components thereof, firearms, air rifles, discharge of firearms or air rifles, or hunting or fishing equipment or components thereof.

§ 7202. MEDICAL MONITORING FOR EXPOSURE TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES

(a) A person with or without a present injury or disease shall have a cause of action for the remedy of medical monitoring against a person who released a toxic substance from a large facility if all of the following are demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence:

(1) The person was exposed to the toxic substance as a result of tortious conduct by the person who released the toxic substance.

(2) There is a probable link between exposure to the toxic substance and a latent disease.

(3) The person’s exposure to the toxic substance increases the risk of developing a latent disease. A person does not need to prove that the latent disease is certain or likely to develop as a result of the exposure.

(4) Diagnostic testing is reasonably necessary. Testing is reasonably necessary if a physician would recommend testing for the purpose of detecting or monitoring the latent disease based on the person’s exposure.

(5) Medical tests or procedures exist to detect the latent disease.

(b) A person’s present or past health status shall not be an issue in a claim for medical monitoring.

(c) If medical monitoring is awarded, a court shall order the liable person to fund a court-supervised medical monitoring program administered by one or more health professional.

(d) Upon an award of medical monitoring under subsection (c), the court shall award to the plaintiff reasonable attorney’s fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred.

(e) Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to preclude the pursuit of any other civil or injunctive remedy available under statute or common law, including the right of any person to recover for damages related to the manifestation of a latent disease. The remedies in this chapter are in addition to those provided by existing statutory or common law.

(f) This section does not preclude a court from certifying a class action for the remedy of medical monitoring.

\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

And that after passage the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to medical monitoring.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

**S. 41.**

An act relating to regulating entities that administer health reimbursement arrangements.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9417 is added to read:

§ 9417. TAX-ADVANTAGED ACCOUNTS FOR HEALTH EXPENSES;  
ADMINISTRATION; RULEMAKING

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Flexible spending account” or “FSA” has the same meaning as in 26 U.S.C. § 106(c)(2).

(2) “Health reimbursement arrangement” or “HRA” means any account-based reimbursement arrangement funded solely by employer contributions that reimburses an employee, spouse, or dependents, or a combination thereof, for medical care expenses incurred by the employee, spouse, dependents, or a combination thereof, up to a maximum coverage amount set by the employer for a given coverage period, and that is established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §§ 105–106 and applicable guidance from the Internal Revenue Service.

(3) “Health savings account” or “HSA” has the same meaning as in 26 U.S.C. § 223(d)(1).

(b) Any entity administering one or more HRAs, HSAs, or FSAs, or a combination of these, in this State is providing financial services to Vermont residents and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation pursuant to 8 V.S.A. § 10 and all other applicable provisions.

(c) The Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to license and regulate, to the extent permitted under federal law, entities administering or proposing to administer one or more HRAs, HSAs, or FSAs, or a combination of these, in this State. The rules may include:

(1) annual licensure or registration filing requirements; and

(2) such requirements and qualifications for such entities as the Commissioner determines are appropriate, which may include:

(A) bonding, surplus, reserves, or a combination thereof;

(B) information security and confidentiality; and

(C) examination and enforcement.

(d) Following the adoption of rules pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, an entity making an initial application for a license or registration to administer HRAs, HSAs, or FSAs, or a combination of these, in this State shall pay to the Commissioner a nonrefundable fee of \$600.00 for examining, investigating, and processing the application. Each such entity shall also pay a renewal fee of \$600.00 on or before December 31 every three years following initial licensure.

## Sec. 2. RULEMAKING; REPORT

On or before February 15, 2020, the Commissioner of Financial Regulation shall provide an update to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committees on Health Care and on Commerce and Economic Development on the progress of the rulemaking required by Sec. 1 of this act, including any findings related to the permissible scope of the rule.

## Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage, provided that the Department of Financial Regulation shall adopt its final rule on or before September 1, 2020 regulating entities that administer HRAs, HSAs, or FSAs, or a combination of these.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)



**S. 133.**

An act relating to juvenile jurisdiction.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Judiciary.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 3, 33 V.S.A. § 5201, in subsection (c), by striking out the word “delinquency” and inserting in lieu thereof the words youthful offender

Second: In Sec. 9, 3 V.S.A. § 164 in subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i)(I), by striking out the words “an outcome of substance dependence” and inserting in lieu thereof the words associated with a substance abuse disorder

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

**NOTICE CALENDAR**

**Committee Bills for Second Reading**

**S. 146.**

An act relating to substance misuse prevention.

**By the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

**S. 149.**

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**By the Committee on Transportation.**

**Favorable**

**S. 118.**

An act relating to the time frame for the adoption of administrative rules.

**Reported favorably by Senator Bray for the Committee on Government Operations.**

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 55.**

An act relating to the regulation of toxic substances and hazardous materials.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 1776 is amended to read:

§ 1776. RULEMAKING; ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS OF CONCERN TO CHILDREN; PROHIBITION OF SALE

\* \* \*

(b) Additional chemicals of concern to children. The Commissioner may by rule add additional chemicals to the list of chemicals of high concern to children, provided that the Commissioner of Health, on the basis of ~~the weight of~~ credible, peer-reviewed scientific evidence information, has determined that a chemical proposed for addition to the list meets both of the following criteria in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection:

1) The Commissioner of Health has determined that an authoritative governmental entity or accredited research university has demonstrated that the chemical:

(A) harms the normal development of a fetus or child or causes other developmental toxicity;

(B) causes cancer, genetic damage, or reproductive harm;

(C) disrupts the endocrine system;

(D) damages the nervous system, immune system, or organs or causes other systemic toxicity; or

(E) is a persistent bioaccumulative toxic.

(2) The chemical has been found through:

(A) biomonitoring to be present in human blood, umbilical cord blood, breast milk, urine, or other bodily tissues or fluids;

(B) sampling and analysis to be present in household dust, indoor air, drinking water, or elsewhere in the home environment; or

(C) monitoring to be present in fish, wildlife, or the natural environment.

\* \* \*

(d) Rule to regulate sale or distribution.

(1) The Commissioner, ~~upon the recommendation of~~ after consultation with the Chemicals of High Concern to Children Working Group, may adopt a rule to regulate the sale or distribution of a children's product containing a chemical of high concern to children upon a determination that:

(A) children ~~will~~ may be exposed to a chemical of high concern to children in the children's product; ~~and~~

~~(B) there is a probability that, due to the degree of exposure or frequency of exposure of a child to a chemical of high concern to children in a children's product, exposure could cause or contribute to one or more of the adverse health impacts listed under subdivision (b)(1) of this section.~~

(2) In determining whether children ~~will~~ may be exposed to a chemical of high concern in a children's product, the Commissioner shall review available, credible information regarding:

(A) the market presence of the children's product in the State;

(B) the type or occurrence of exposures to the relevant chemical of high concern to children in the children's product;

(C) the household and workplace presence of the children's product; or

(D) the potential ~~and frequency~~ of exposure of children to the chemical of high concern to children in the children's product.

(3) A rule adopted under this section may:

(A) prohibit the children's product containing the chemical of high concern to children from sale, offer for sale, or distribution in the State; or

(B) require that the children's product containing the chemical of high concern to children be labeled prior to sale, offer for sale, or distribution in the State.

(4) In any rule adopted under this subsection, the Commissioner shall adopt reasonable time frames for manufacturers, distributors, and retailers to comply with the requirements of the rules. No prohibition on sale or manufacture of a children's product in the State shall take effect sooner than two years after the adoption of a rule adopted under this section unless the

Commissioner determines that an earlier effective date is required to protect human health and the new effective date is established by rule.

(5) The Chemicals of High Concern to Children Working Group may, at its discretion, submit to the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Health and Welfare the recommendations or information from a consultation provided to the Commissioner under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

\* \* \*

(f) Additional rules.

(1) ~~On or before July 1, 2017, the~~ The Commissioner of Health shall adopt by rule the process and procedure to be required when the Commissioner of Health adopts a rule under subsection (b), (c), or (d) of this section. The rule shall provide:

(A) all relevant criteria for evaluation of the chemical;

(B) criteria by which a chemical, due to its presence in the environment or risk of harm, shall be prioritized for addition or removal from the list of chemicals of high concern to children or for regulation under subsection (d) of this section;

(C) time frames for labeling or phasing out sale or distribution; ~~and~~

(D) requirements for when or how a manufacturer of a children's product that contains a chemical of high concern to children provides the notice required under subsection 1775(a) of this title when the manufacturer intends to introduce the children's product for sale between the required dates for reporting; and

(E) other information or process determined as necessary by the Commissioner for implementation of this chapter.

\* \* \*

#### Sec. 4a. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; RULEMAKING DATE

On or before January 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Health shall adopt the rule required under 18 V.S.A. § 1776(f)(1)(D) (notice by manufacturer of children's product containing a chemical of high concern to children between reporting dates).

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

## CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointment will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Michael P. Touchette of Colchester – Commissioner, Department of Corrections – By Senator Benning for the Committee on Institutions. (2/28/19)

Rebekah Irwin of Middlebury – Member, Board of Libraries – By Senator Hardy for the Committee on Education. (3/13/19)

## FOR INFORMATION ONLY

### CROSSOVER DATES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following Crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2)) on or before **Friday, March 15, 2019**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 22, 2019**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

**Note:** The Senate will not act on bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.