

# Senate Calendar

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020

SENATE CONVENES AT: 10:00 A.M.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**GOVERNOR VETO**

**S. 37.**

An act relating to medical monitoring.

**Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll):** Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two -thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

**Text of Communication from Governor**

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he *vetoed* and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. 37** to the Senate is as follows:

June 17, 2019

The Honorable John Bloomer, Jr.  
Secretary of the Senate  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5401

Dear Secretary Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I am returning S.37, *An act relating to medical monitoring*, without my signature because of my objections described herein:

Since I took office, we have taken many steps to ensure safe drinking water in our communities and hold responsible parties accountable for toxic pollution, including:

- Implementing Act 55 of 2017 to hold parties that contaminate groundwater responsible for connecting impacted Vermonters to municipal water;
- Passing S.49 of 2019, which I proudly signed in May, to take the next step in Vermont's response to PFOA and the related chemical class known as PFAS;
- Securing an agreement with St. Gobain to extend waterlines to 470 homes or businesses in Bennington and North Bennington;

- Funding to finish waterline extensions to the remaining impacted homes on the east side of Bennington;
- Funding for lead testing and remediation in all Vermont schools and childcare centers;
- Establishing long-term funding sources for phosphorous remediation in state waterways; and
- Proposing and passing an enhanced service delivery model for water quality projects.

As a state, we have shown a significant commitment to ensuring Vermonters have clean and safe water and have existing legal avenues to pursue bad actors who jeopardize Vermonters' health – and we will continue to do so.

While we made progress this year in the discussion about medical monitoring, S.37 as passed, lacks the clarity needed by Vermont employers who our state relies on to provide good jobs. Numerous Vermont employers have expressed concerns to me, and to Legislators, that the unknown legal and financial risks, and increased liability, is problematic for continued investment in Vermont.

If Vermont manufacturers and others cannot secure insurance or cover claims, then our economy will weaken, jobs will be lost, tax revenue will decline and, ultimately, all Vermonters lose.

I continue to believe we do not have to choose between Vermonters health and the availability of jobs.

The good news is there is a path forward. The bipartisan amendment introduced by Representatives Beck, Houghton, Gannon, Bancroft and Fagan, during third reading of the bill on the House Floor on May 16, would provide affected Vermonters with a remedy based on a well-established legal test. If the Legislature makes these changes, I can support this proposal.

Based on the objections outlined above, I must return this legislation without my signature pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution. I am very confident that we are close to a solution that will benefit Vermonters without causing Vermonters to lose their jobs and harming our economy, should the Legislature choose to revisit this bill in January.

Sincerely,

/s/Philip B. Scott

Governor

PBS/kp

### **Text of Bill as Passed By Senate and House**

The text of the bill as passed by the Senate and House of Representatives is as follows:

**S. 37** An act relating to medical monitoring.

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

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

Sec. 1. 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 to 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, or absorption through any body surface.

(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 an activity within a Standard Industrial Classification code of 10 through 14, 20 through 39, 40 through 42, 44 through 46, or 49 is conducted or was conducted; and

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

(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 tests or procedures for the purpose of early detection of signs or symptoms of a latent disease resulting from exposure.

(7) “Operator” means a person who manages, conducts, or directs the operations of a facility.

(8) “Owner” means a person who owns or controls a facility. “Owner” shall not mean a person who without participating in the management of the facility holds indicia of ownership primarily to protect a security interest.

(9) “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.

(10) “Release” means any act or omission that allows a toxic substance to enter the air, land, surface water, or groundwater.

(11) “Tortious conduct” or “tortious” means negligence, trespass, nuisance, product liability, or common law liability for ultra-hazardous or abnormally dangerous activity.

(12)(A) “Toxic substance” means any substance, mixture, or compound that may cause personal injury or disease 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;

(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 is shown by expert testimony to increase the risk of developing a latent disease.

(B) “Toxic substance” shall not mean:

(i) a pesticide when applied consistent with good practice; in conformity with federal, State, and local laws, rules, and regulations; and according to the manufacturer’s instructions; 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 without a present injury or disease shall have a cause of action for the remedy of medical monitoring against a person who is the owner or operator of a large facility from which a toxic substance was released 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 owner or operator, or persons under the control of the owner or operator, who released the toxic substance.

(2) As a proximate result of the tortious exposure, the person has a greater risk of contracting a latent disease.

(3) Diagnostic testing is reasonably necessary. Testing is reasonably necessary if, shown by expert testimony, a physician would prescribe diagnostic testing because the person’s increased risk of contracting the disease due to the exposure makes it reasonably necessary to undergo diagnostic testing different from what would normally be prescribed in the absence of the exposure.

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

(b) If the cost of medical monitoring is awarded, a court shall order the defendant found liable to pay the award to a court-supervised medical monitoring program administered by one or more appropriate health professionals, including professionals with expertise in exposure to toxic substances or expertise with treating or monitoring the relevant latent disease or diseases.

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

(d)(1) This chapter shall be the exclusive remedy for a person without a present injury to bring a cause of action to seek medical monitoring due to exposure to toxic substance.

(2) Except as provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection, nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to preclude the pursuit of any other civil or injunctive remedy or defense available under statute or common law, including the right of any person to seek to recover for damages related to the manifestation of a latent disease. The remedies and defenses in this chapter are in addition to those provided by existing statutory or common law.

(e) This section shall not increase the rights and remedies available under 21 V.S.A. chapter 9 to an employee who suffers a personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of employment, provided that 21 V.S.A. chapter 9 shall not limit the right of a person who has not suffered a personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of employment to bring a cause of action for medical monitoring.

Sec. 2. [Deleted.]

\* \* \* Hazardous Material Releases \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 6615 is amended to read:

§ 6615. LIABILITY

(a) Subject only to the defenses set forth in subsections (d) and (e) of this section, the following persons shall be liable for abating a release or threatened release of hazardous material and the costs of investigation, removal, and remedial actions incurred by the State that are necessary to protect the public health or the environment:

(1) the owner or operator of a facility, or both;

(2) any person who at the time of release or threatened release of any hazardous material owned or operated any facility at which such hazardous materials were disposed of;

(3) any person who by contract, agreement, or otherwise arranged for disposal or treatment, or arranged with a transporter for transport for disposal or treatment, of hazardous materials owned or possessed by such person, by any other person or entity, at any facility owned or operated by another person or entity and containing such hazardous materials; ~~and~~

(4) any person who accepts or accepted any hazardous materials for transport to disposal or treatment facilities selected by such persons, from which there is a release, or a threatened release of hazardous materials ~~shall be liable for;~~ and

~~(A) abating such release or threatened release; and~~

~~(B) costs of investigation, removal, and remedial actions incurred by the State which are necessary to protect the public health or the environment.~~

(5) any person who manufactured for commercial sale a hazardous material and who knew or should have known that the material presented a threat of harm to human health or the natural environment.

\* \* \*

(d)(1) There shall be no liability under this section for a person otherwise liable who can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the release or threat of release of hazardous material and the resulting damages were caused solely by any of the following:

(A) An act of God.

(B) An act of war.

(C) An act or omission of a third party other than an employee or agent of the defendant, or other than one whose act or omission occurs in connection with a contractual relationship, existing directly or indirectly, with the defendant. If the sole contractual arrangement arises from a published tariff and acceptance for carriage by a common carrier by rail, for purposes of this section, there shall be considered to be no contractual relationship at all. This subdivision (d)(1)(C) shall only serve as a defense if the defendant establishes by a preponderance of the evidence:

(i) that the defendant exercised due care with respect to the hazardous material concerned, taking into consideration the characteristics of that hazardous material, in light of all relevant facts and circumstances; and

(ii) that the defendant took precautions against foreseeable acts or omissions of any such third party and the consequences that could foreseeably result from those acts or omissions.

(D) Any combination of subdivisions (A)-(C) of this subdivision (1).

\* \* \*

(5) A person shall not be liable under subdivision (a)(5) of this section provided that the person demonstrates that he or she provided an adequate

warning of the harm posed by the hazardous material known or which should have been known at the time the hazardous material was manufactured.

\* \* \*

(i) In an action brought by the Secretary under this section, a responsible person may implead, or in a separate action a responsible person may sue, another responsible person or persons and may obtain contribution or indemnification, except that a person who is solely liable pursuant to subdivision (a)(5) of this section shall not be able to implead or to sue a person pursuant to this subsection. A responsible person who has resolved its liability to the State under this section through a judicially approved settlement and a secured lender or fiduciary with whom the Secretary has entered into an agreement under subsection (h) of this section shall not be liable for claims for contribution or indemnification regarding matters addressed in the judicially approved settlement or in the agreement. Likewise, a person who has obtained a certificate of completion pursuant to subchapter 3 of this chapter shall not be liable for claims for contribution or indemnification regarding releases or threatened releases described in the approved corrective action plan, as amended. Such a settlement or agreement or certificate of completion does not discharge any other potentially responsible person unless its terms so provide, but it reduces the potential liability of other potentially responsible persons by the relief agreed upon. A secured lender or fiduciary with whom the Secretary has entered into an agreement under subsection (h) of this section may not seek contribution or indemnification on the basis of such agreement from any other potentially responsible person. In any action for contribution or indemnification, the rights of any person who has resolved its liability to the State shall be subordinate to the rights of the State.

#### Sec. 4. APPLICATION OF LIABILITY

Notwithstanding any contrary provision of 1 V.S.A. § 214, the amendment contained in 10 V.S.A. § 6615(a)(5) shall apply to any relevant release of a hazardous material regardless of the date of the relevant release, including releases that occurred prior to the effective date of 10 V.S.A. § 6615(a)(5).

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

#### Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

**S. 169.**

An act relating to firearms procedures.

**Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll):** Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two -thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

**Text of Communication from Governor**

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he *vetoed* and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. 169** to the Senate is as follows:

June 10, 2019

The Honorable John Bloomer, Jr.  
Secretary of the Senate  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5401

Dear Secretary Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I am returning S.169, *An act relating firearms procedures* without my signature in the time permitted by the Constitution because of my objections described herein.

Last year, I called for and signed a package of historic gun safety reforms because I believe they make schools, communities, families and individuals safer, while upholding Vermonters' constitutional rights.

Over the last year, among other gun safety measures, we have established:

- Mandatory background check requirements;
- Extreme risk protection orders, giving families tools to remove guns from those who may harm themselves or others;
- The ability of law enforcement to remove firearms from those accused of domestic violence; and
- Requirements increasing the age to buy a firearm from 18 to 21.

With these measures in place, we must now prioritize strategies that address the underlying causes of violence and suicide. I do not believe S.169 addresses these areas.

Moving forward, I ask the Legislature to work with me to strengthen our mental health system, reduce adverse childhood experiences, combat addiction, and provide every Vermonter with hope and economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

/s/Philip B. Scott  
Governor

### **Text of Bill as Passed By Senate and House**

The text of the bill as passed by the Senate and House of Representatives is as follows:

**S. 169** An act relating to firearms procedures.

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

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 4021 is amended to read:

§ 4021. LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION FEEDING DEVICES

(a) A person shall not manufacture, possess, transfer, offer for sale, purchase, or receive or import into this State a large capacity ammunition feeding device. As used in this subsection, “import” shall not include the transportation back into this State of a large capacity ammunition feeding device by the same person who transported the device out of State if the person possessed the device on or before the effective date of this section.

\* \* \*

(c)(1)(A) The prohibition on possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices established by subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to a large capacity ammunition feeding device lawfully possessed on or before the effective date of this section or to the transfer by a Vermont resident of a lawfully possessed large capacity ammunition feeding device from one immediate family member to another immediate family member by a lawfully executed will.

(B) As used in this subsection (c), “immediate family member” has the same meaning as in subsection 4019(a) of this title.

\* \* \*

(d)(1) This section shall not apply to any large capacity ammunition feeding device:

\* \* \*

(B)(i) transferred to or possessed by a federal law enforcement officer or a law enforcement officer certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358, for legitimate law enforcement purposes, whether the officer is on or off duty; or

(ii) possessed by an out-of-state law enforcement officer in Vermont for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

\* \* \*

(F)(i) transported by a resident of another state into this State for the exclusive purpose of use in an ~~established~~ organized shooting competition if the device is lawfully possessed under the laws of another state; or

(ii) possessed at and used at an organized shooting competition if the device was lawfully possessed on or before October 1, 2018.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 4019 is amended to read:

§ 4019. FIREARMS TRANSFERS; BACKGROUND CHECKS

(a) As used in this section:

\* \* \*

(2) “Immediate family member” means a spouse, parent, stepparent, parent in-law, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling, sibling in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, step-grandparent, grandchild, step-grandchild, great-grandparent, step-great-grandparent, great-grandchild, and step-great-grandchild.

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 4019a is added to read:

§ 4019a. HAND GUN TRANSFERS; WAITING PERIOD

(a) A person shall not transfer a hand gun to another person until 24 hours after the completion of the background check required by 18 U.S.C. § 922(t) or section 4019 of this title.

(b) A person who transfers a hand gun to another person in violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$500.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to a hand gun transfer that does not require a background check under 18 U.S.C. § 922(t) or section 4019 of this title.

Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A. § 4057 is amended to read:

§ 4057. PROCEDURE

(a) Except as otherwise specified, proceedings commenced under this subchapter shall be in accordance with the Vermont Rules for Family Proceedings and shall be in addition to any other available civil or criminal remedies.

\* \* \*

(d)(1) For purposes of a petition filed pursuant to this subchapter, a health care provider may notify a law enforcement officer when the provider believes in good faith that disclosure of the information is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

(2) As used in this subsection:

(A) “Health care provider” has the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 9432.

(B) “Necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public” includes circumstances when the health care provider reasonably believes that the patient poses an extreme risk of causing harm to himself or herself or another person by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within his or her custody or control.

Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 4062 is added to read:

§ 4062. ANNUAL REPORTING; OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
AND AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

(a) On or before September 1, 2019 and annually thereafter, the Court Administrator, with the assistance of the Agency of Human Services, shall report data on the use of extreme risk protection orders during the previous year to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary.

(b) The reports required by this section shall include the following data for the previous year:

(1) the number of extreme risk protection order petitions filed and the number of orders issued;

(2) geographical data indicating the county where the petition was filed;  
and

(3) follow-up information describing whether the order was renewed or terminated pursuant to section 4055 of this title and whether the subject of the order was charged with violating it under section 4058 of this title.

(c) The Agency of Human Services shall include in the reports required by this section an analysis of the impact of extreme risk prevention orders on Vermont suicide rates, including any relevant data relied on or utilized by the Agency for purposes of providing the information required by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 34, An act relating to evaluation of suicide profiles.

Sec. 6. REPEAL

2018 Acts and Resolves No. 94, Sec. 11 (July 1, 2019 repeal of 13 V.S.A. § 4021(d)(1)(F), relating to transportation into Vermont of large capacity ammunition feeding devices for use in shooting competitions) is repealed.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

**NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY**

**January 9, 2020 - 2 p.m.** – House Chamber – State-of-the-State address by the Honorable Philip B. Scott, Governor of the State of Vermont.