

Senate Calendar

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**ACTION CALENDAR
UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF JANUARY 7, 2020
GOVERNOR'S VETOES**

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.)

(For text of veto message, see Senate Calendar for January 7, 2020, page 1.)

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.)

(For text of veto message, see Senate Calendar for January 7, 2020, page 9.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 12, 2020

Second Reading

Favorable

S. 287.

An act relating to the contractual rights of members of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

Pending Question: Shall the bill be read the third time?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 24, 2020

Third Reading

S. 191.

An act relating to tax increment financing districts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 27, 2020

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 252.

An act relating to stem cell therapies not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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

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. chapter 87 is added to read:

CHAPTER 87. STEM CELL PRODUCTS

§ 4501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Health care practitioner” means an individual licensed by the Board of Medical Practice or by a board attached to the Office of Professional Regulation to provide professional health care services in this State.

(2) “Stem cell products” has the same meaning as “human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products” in 21 C.F.R. § 1271.3, as in effect on January 1, 2020, and applies to both homologous and nonhomologous use. The term also includes homologous use of minimally manipulated cell or tissue products, as those terms are defined in 21 C.F.R. § 1271.3, as in effect on January 1, 2020, when used or proposed for use in one or more applications not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

§ 4502. UNAPPROVED STEM CELL PRODUCTS; NOTICE;
DISCLOSURE

(a) Notice.

(1) A health care practitioner who administers one or more stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall provide each patient with the following written notice prior to administering any such product to the patient for the first time:

“THIS NOTICE MUST BE PROVIDED TO YOU UNDER VERMONT LAW. This health care practitioner administers one or more stem cell products that have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. You

are encouraged to consult with your primary care provider prior to having an unapproved stem cell product administered to you.”

(2)(A) The written notice required by subdivision (1) of this subsection shall:

(i) be at least 8.5 by 11 inches and printed in not less than 40-point type; and

(ii) include information on methods for filing a complaint with the applicable licensing authority and for making a consumer inquiry.

(B) The health care practitioner shall also prominently display the written notice required by subdivision (1) of this subsection, along with the information required to be included by subdivision (A)(ii) of this subdivision (2), at the entrance and in an area visible to patients in the health care practitioner’s office.

(b) Disclosure.

(1) A health care practitioner who administers stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall provide a disclosure form to a patient for the patient’s signature prior to each administration of an unapproved stem cell product.

(2) The disclosure form shall state, in language that the patient could reasonably be expected to understand, the stem cell product’s U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval status.

(3) The health care practitioner shall retain in the patient’s medical record a copy of each disclosure form signed and dated by the patient.

(c) Advertisements. A health care practitioner shall include the notice set forth in subdivision (a)(1) of this section in any advertisements relating to the use of stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In print advertisements, the notice shall be clearly legible and in a font size not smaller than the largest font size used in the advertisement. For all other forms of advertisements, the notice shall either be clearly legible in a font size not smaller than the largest font size used in the advertisement or clearly spoken.

(d) Nonapplicability. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the following:

(1) a health care practitioner who has obtained approval or clearance for an investigational new drug or device from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the use of stem cell products; or

(2) a health care practitioner who administers a stem cell product pursuant to an employment or other contract to administer stem cell products on behalf of or under the auspices of an institution certified by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy, the National Institutes of Health Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network, or AABB, formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks.

(e) Violations. A violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct under 3 V.S.A. § 129a and 26 V.S.A. § 1354.

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 129a is amended to read:

§ 129a. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) In addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action. Any one of the following items or any combination of items, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

* * *

(27) For a health care practitioner, failing to comply with one or more of the notice, disclosure, or advertising requirements in 18 V.S.A. § 4502 for administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

* * *

Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 1354 is amended to read:

§ 1354. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) The Board shall find that any one of the following, or any combination of the following, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, constitutes unprofessional conduct:

* * *

(39) use of the services of a physician assistant by a physician in a manner that is inconsistent with the provisions of chapter 31 of this title; or

(40) use of conversion therapy as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 8351 on a client younger than 18 years of age; or

(41) failure to comply with one or more of the notice, disclosure, or advertising requirements in 18 V.S.A. § 4502 for administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

* * *

Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; ADVANCE DIRECTIVES;
RULEMAKING

The Department of Health shall amend its rules on advance directives to further clarify the scope of experimental treatments to which an agent may and may not provide consent on behalf of a principal. The Department's amended rules shall take effect not later than January 1, 2021.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 297.

An act relating to the Agency of Health Care Administration.

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 all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES REORGANIZATION;
WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created a working group to develop proposals for reorganizing the Agency of Human Services.

(b) Membership. The working group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(2) the commissioner of each department within the Agency of Human Services or their designees; and

(3) other interested stakeholders.

(c) Powers and duties. The working group shall consider options for reorganizing, restructuring, or reconfiguring the Agency of Human Services and its departments to best serve Vermonters, including consideration of the following:

(1) whether the Agency of Human Services should be divided into two or more agencies, and if so, how they should be organized;

(2) whether the Agency of Human Services should be divided as follows:

(A) an Agency of Human Services, comprising the Department of Corrections; the Department for Children and Families; the Department of Independent Living, which would provide services to Vermonters who are elders and to individuals with disabilities; and the Human Services Board; and

(B) an Agency of Health Care Administration comprising the Departments of Health Access, of Mental Health and Substance Misuse, of Long-Term Care, and of Public Health; the Health Care Board; and the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange;

(3) how to improve collaboration, integration, and alignment of services across agencies and departments to deliver services built around the needs of individuals and families; and

(4) how to minimize any confusion or disruption that may result from implementing the recommended changes.

(d) Assistance. The working group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Human Services.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2021, the working group shall provide its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall call the first meeting of the working group to occur on or before July 1, 2020.

(2) The working group shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the working group's membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The working group shall cease to exist on January 15, 2021.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to reorganizing the Agency of Human Services.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Clarkson for the Committee on Government Operations.

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. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES ORGANIZATIONAL
STRUCTURE; WORKING GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created a working group to evaluate the organizational structure of the Agency of Human Services and to recommend any appropriate modifications to that structure.

(b) Membership. The working group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(2) the commissioner of each department within the Agency of Human Services or their designees; and

(3) three employees of the Agency of Human Services, appointed by the President of the Vermont State Employees Association.

(c) Powers and duties. The working group, in consultation with interested stakeholders, shall consider options for reorganizing, restructuring, or reconfiguring the Agency of Human Services and its departments to best serve Vermonters, including consideration of the following:

(1) whether the Agency of Human Services should be divided into two or more agencies, and if so, how they should be organized;

(2) how to improve collaboration, integration, and alignment of services across agencies and departments to deliver services built around the needs of individuals and families; and

(3) how to minimize any confusion or disruption that may result from implementing the recommended changes.

(d) Assistance. The working group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Human Services.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2021, the working group shall provide its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall call the first meeting of the working group to occur on or before July 1, 2020.

(2) The working group shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the working group's membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) All of the working group's meetings shall be open to the public and all meeting dates, times, and locations shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

(5) The working group shall cease to exist on January 15, 2021.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to the organizational structure of the Agency of Human Services.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 683

An act relating to the protection of migratory birds

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

In Sec. 4, effective date, by striking out "July 1, 2020" and inserting in lieu thereof the word passage.

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments 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.

Craig Bolio of Winooski – Commissioner, Department of Taxes – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Finance. (01/21/20)

Sabina Brochu of Williston - Member, State Board of Education - By Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Education. (01/24/20)

Kyle Courtois of Georgia - Member, State Board of Education - By Sen. Perchlik for the Committee on Education. (01/24/20)

Margaret Tandoh of South Burlington – Member, Board of Medical Practice – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (02/11/20)

Holly Morehouse of Burlington – Member, Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs – By Sen. Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (02/12/20)

Susan Hayward of Middlesex – Member, Capitol Complex Commission – By Sen. Benning for the Committee on Institutions. (02/14/20)

Heather Shouldice of Montpelier – Member, Capitol Complex Commission – By Sen. Benning for the Committee on Institutions. (02/14/20)

Dorinne Dorfman of Waterbury Center – Member, Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs – Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (02/25/20)

Richard Bernstein of Jericho – Member, Board of Medical Practice – Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (03/10/20)

Dawn Philibert of Williston – Member, State Board of Health – Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (03/10/20)

NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

September 14, 2020 - 5:00 P.M. - House Chamber - Pursuant to J.R.S. 63 - Retention of six Superior Court Judges: David A. Barra, Michael J. Harris, Katherine Anne Hayes, Martin A. Maley, John William Valente and Thomas G. Walsh.

JFO NOTICE

JFO #3018 – \$35,845,657 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the VT Dept. of Labor (VDOL). The funds will be used to provide retroactive supplemental unemployment benefits in the amount of \$300 per week for the weeks ending 8/1/20, 8/8/20, and 8/15/20. The funds come from the \$44 billion that was reallocated from the federal Disaster Relief Fund per the President’s executive order dated August 8, 2020. FEMA has authorized states to use existing unemployment payments towards the 25% state match requirement, and the intent of VDOL is to use this avenue. No new state funds will be obligated upon approval of this grant, per the Administration.

[JFO received 08/25/20]