

H.572: An act relating to the Maternal Mortality Review Panel
 (as Passed by the House and amended by the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare)

Section	As Passed House	As Passed SHW	Pending Senate Floor Amendment
<p>Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1552. Maternal Mortality Review Panel Established</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the Commissioner of Health to make the following one-year appointments to the Panel as necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a licensed clinical provider specializing in substance use disorder; ○ an expert in pharmaceutical management of mental health; and ○ a social worker. • Enables the Panel to consult experts as needed on a case by case basis. • Allows the Department to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states that have maternal mortality review panels provided access under such agreements is consistent with Vermont's privacy, security, and disclosure protections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifies that the Panel's review process cannot begin until any criminal prosecution arising out of the maternal mortality is concluded by the AG and a State's Attorney provides written notice to the Panel that no criminal charges shall be filed. 	<p align="center">[Same]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds to charge: "The Panel shall consider health disparities and social determinants of health, including race and ethnicity in maternal death reviews." • Specifies all HIPAA-complaint reports can be submitted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires an annual report from the Panel to SHW/HHS. Provides for per diem compensation and reimbursement to Panel members not otherwise compensated for not more than 3 meetings annually. Payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Health. 		
Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 1554. Confidentiality	[Not in House version]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restates the existing exemption to the Open Meeting Law in a manner consistent with other statutory language. Restates the existing exemption to the Public Records Act in a manner consistent with other statutory language and includes in the exemption records both produced <i>and acquired</i> by the Panel. 	
Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 1555. Information Related to Maternal Mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables the Panel to acquire any public safety or police records related to a maternal death, if the Chair determines it is necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands records to which the Panel has access: In any case under review by the Panel, upon written request of the Commissioner or designee, a person who possesses information or records that are necessary and relevant to the review of a maternal mortality shall provide the Panel with the information and records. Moves the existing definition of “individually identifiable information” to a new subdivision. 	
Sec. 4. Effective Date	July 1, 2020	[Same]	