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To: Vermont House of Representatives
Committee on Government Operations

From: Charity R. Clark, Chief of Staff
Vermont Attorney General's Office

Date: January 9, 2020

Re: Background and statistics on Vermont Public Records Act (PRA) requests
to the Attorney General's Office

In 2019, the Attorney General's Office (the "AGO") received 157 requests for records under the Vermont Public Records Act, 1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320. The requests came from a variety of people and entities, including members of the press, law firms, non-profits, individuals, and businesses. The AGO's case management software tracks the type of requester by assigning them one of three designations: "Firm" (for organizations, businesses, non-profits, law firms, universities, and the like), "Press," and "Citizen" (for individuals). In 2020, the breakdown of types of requesters was as follows:

Firm: 71
Press: 44
Citizen: 42

Over the past year, the AGO received a PRA request more than every other business day. The divisions that received the most requests were the Public Protection Division, which includes the Consumer and Civil Rights Units, and the Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), which receives consumer complaints and employs a letter mediation program to help resolve these complaints. Together CAP and the Public Protection Division received 64 requests for public records. Three other divisions received significant numbers of requests: The General Counsel and Administrative Law Division (GCAL) received 43 requests, the Criminal Division received 34 requests, and the Environmental Division received 14.