

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE

The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill No. S. 243, entitled "An act relating to establishing the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission"

respectfully reports that it has considered the same and 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. § 7257b is added to read:

§ 7257b. EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDER WELLNESS
COMMISSION

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Chief executive of an emergency service provider organization" means a person in charge of an organization that employs or supervises emergency service providers in their official capacity.

(2) "Emergency service provider" means a person:

(A) currently or formerly recognized by a Vermont Fire Department as a firefighter;

(B) currently or formerly licensed by the Department of Health as an emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, advanced emergency medical technician, or paramedic;

(C) currently or formerly certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council, including constables and sheriffs;

(D) currently or formerly employed by the Department of Corrections as a probation, parole, or correctional facility officer; or

(E) currently or formerly certified by the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board as a 911 call taker or employed as an emergency communications dispatcher providing service for an emergency service provider organization.

(3) "Licensing entity" means a State entity that licenses or certifies an emergency service provider.

(b) There is created the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission within the Agency of Human Services for the following purposes:

(1) to identify where increased or alternative supports or strategic investments within the emergency service provider community, designated or specialized service agencies, or other community service systems could improve the physical and mental health outcomes and overall wellness of emergency service providers;

(G) the Commissioner of Human Resources or designee;

(H) a law enforcement officer who is not a chief or sheriff, appointed by the President of the Vermont Police Association;

(I) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police;

(J) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Sheriffs' Association;

(K) a volunteer firefighter, appointed by the Vermont State Firefighters' Association;

(L) a representative of the designated and specialized service agencies, appointed by Vermont Care Partners;

(M) a representative, appointed by the Vermont State Employees Association;

(N) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Troopers' Association;

(O) a professional firefighter, appointed by the Professional Firefighters of Vermont;

(P) a clinician associated with a peer support program who has experience in treating workplace trauma, appointed by the Governor;

(Q) a professional emergency medical technician or paramedic, appointed by the Vermont State Ambulance Association;

(R) a volunteer emergency medical technician or paramedic, appointed by the Vermont State Ambulance Association;

(S) a person who serves or served on a peer support team, appointed by the Governor;

(T) a representative, appointed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns;

(U) a Chief, appointed by the Vermont Career Fire Chiefs Association;

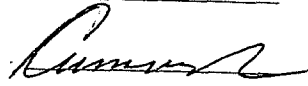
(V) a Chief, appointed by the Vermont Fire Chiefs Association; and

(W) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association for Hospitals and Health Systems.

(2) The members of the Commission specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall serve three-year terms. Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The replacement member shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)



Senator Cummings
FOR THE COMMITTEE