
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 65 (S.97). Judiciary; civil and criminal court procedures

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures

This act makes a number of changes to court and Judiciary procedures, including repealing the sunsets on the Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile System Advisory Panel (RDAP) and the spousal maintenance and support guidelines, and extending the sunset for the Vermont Sentencing Commission from July 1, 2021, to July 1, 2022; repealing 13 V.S.A. § 2579, which allows civil actions based on the crime of retail theft, and 20 V.S.A. § 187, which requires district judges to designate three successors to serve in the judge's place if the judge is incapacitated; clarifying the fees for appointing the personal representative in a wrongful death action and for registering a guardianship from another state; correcting an error so that provisions of Act 164 of 2020 (taxation and regulation of cannabis) remain permanent; requiring that proceedings involving commercial driver's license holders charged with certain offenses be brought in the Criminal Division instead of the Family Division; clarifying that a juvenile proceeding need not be pending in the Family Division in order for the court to extend juvenile jurisdiction in certain cases; harmonizing the age limits in several juvenile statutes to conform with the "Raise the Age" initiative; expanding the existing list of who is eligible to receive juvenile court records without having to petition the court for access; expanding the membership of RDAP by three members: the Executive Director of Racial Equity and two community members appointed by the Executive Director of Racial Equity who will have experience working in information technology or data collection systems; and requiring RDAP to report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees by November 15, 2021, on the creation of the Bureau of Racial Justice Statistics to collect and analyze data related to systemic racial bias and disparities within the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 7, 2021