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S.58

Introduced by Senators McCormack, Brock and Perchlik

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Criminal procedures; defenses prohibited; gay and trans panic defense

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit a criminal defendant from raising as a defense that his or her criminal conduct was based on the discovery of, knowledge about, or potential disclosure of the crime victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

An act relating to prohibiting use of the gay and trans panic defense

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 6566 is added to read:

§ 6566. GAY AND TRANS PANIC DEFENSE PROHIBITED

In a prosecution for any criminal offense, it shall not be a defense that the defendant's criminal conduct was based on the discovery of, knowledge about, or potential disclosure of the crime victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.