

1 S.150

2 Introduced by Senator Sears

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Legislature; legislative subpoenas

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit
7 committees of the General Assembly to issue legislative subpoenas by a
8 majority vote of committee membership when the General Assembly is in
9 session and during adjournment.

10 An act relating to legislative subpoenas

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

12 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 22 is amended to read:

13 § 22. LEGISLATIVE SUBPOENAS; COMPLAINT FILED IN THE
14 SUPERIOR COURT TO COMPEL TESTIMONY OR PRODUCTION
15 OF EVIDENCE

16 (a) Any committee of the General Assembly may, by a majority vote of its
17 membership, issue a legislative subpoena to summon witnesses or call for the
18 production of papers or other evidence. A committee's legislative subpoena
19 power under this subsection may be exercised when the General Assembly is
20 in session and during adjournment.

1 **(b)** If a person does not comply with a legislative subpoena, a Superior
2 Court may compel the attendance of the person, the giving of testimony, and
3 the production of papers or other evidence, as required by the subpoena.

4 ~~(b)~~**(c)** A person may refuse to comply with a legislative subpoena on the
5 grounds of a valid privilege.

6 ~~(c)~~**(d)** The General Assembly, by a majority vote of those present in either
7 house, or any committee of the General Assembly ~~having subpoena authority~~
8 by a majority vote of its membership, may initiate proceedings under this
9 section by filing a complaint with the court asking that the witness be so
10 compelled.

11 ~~(d)~~**(e)** The failure of any witness to comply with an order of the court
12 issued under this section shall constitute contempt of court.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.