

Senate Calendar

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

SENATE CONVENES AT: 11:30 A.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

ACTION CALENDAR

CONSIDERATION POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 2022

GOVERNOR'S VETO

S. 79 An act relating to improving rental housing health and safety.....258

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF JANUARY 4, 2022

GOVERNOR'S VETO

S. 107 An act relating to confidential information concerning the initial arrest and charge of a juvenile..... 258

Pending question: Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?

Text of the veto message.....258

Bill as passed by Senate and House.....260

NEW BUSINESS

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 74 An act relating to modifications to Vermont's patient choice at end of life laws

Health and Welfare Report - Sen. Hardy262

S. 183 An act relating to midpoint probation review

Judiciary Report - Sen. White265

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 210 An act relating to rental housing health and safety and affordable housing

Econ Dev, Housing and General Affairs Report - Sen. Clarkson267

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 157 An act relating to registration of construction contractors..... 269

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

S.C.R. 11 (For text of Resolution, see Addendum to Senate Calendar for January 20, 2022)..... 275

H.C.R. 86 - 87 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for January 20, 2022).....275

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

CONSIDERATION POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 2022

GOVERNOR'S VETO

S. 79.

An act relating to improving rental housing health and safety.

Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll): Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two-thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

(For text of the Governor's Veto Message, see Senate Journal for June 24, 2021, page 1454)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022

GOVERNOR'S VETO

S. 107.

An act relating to confidential information concerning the initial arrest and charge of a juvenile.

Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll): Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two-thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

The text of the Communication from His Excellency, The Governor, whereby he *vetoed* and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. S. 107** to the Senate is as follows:

Text of Communication from Governor

"May 20, 2021

The Honorable John Bloomer, Jr.
Secretary of the Senate
115 State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5401

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I am returning S.107, *An act relating to confidential information concerning the initial arrest and charge of a juvenile*, without my signature, because of concerns with the policy to automatically raise the age of accountability for

crimes, and afford young adults protections meant for juveniles, without adequate tools or systems in place.

Three years ago, I signed legislation intended to give young adults who had become involved in the criminal justice system certain protections meant for juveniles. At the time, I was assured that, prior to the automatic increases in age prescribed in the bill, plans would be in place to provide access to the rehabilitation, services, housing and other supports needed to both hold these young adults accountable and help them stay out of the criminal justice system in the future.

This has not yet been the case. In addition to ongoing housing challenges, programs designed and implemented for children under 18 are often not appropriate for those over 18. Disturbingly, there are also reports of some young adults being used – and actively recruited – by older criminals, like drug traffickers, to commit crimes because of reduced risk of incarceration, potentially putting the young people we are trying to protect deeper into the criminal culture and at greater risk.

I want to be clear: I’m not blaming the Legislature or the Judiciary for these gaps. All three branches of government need to bring more focus to this issue if we are going to provide the combination of accountability, tools and services needed to ensure justice and give young offenders a second chance.

For these reasons, I believe we need to take a step back and assess Vermont’s “raise the age” policy, the gaps that exist in our systems and the unintended consequences of a piecemeal approach on the health and safety of our communities, victims and the offenders we are attempting to help. I see S.107 as deepening this piecemeal approach.

I also remain concerned with the lack of clarity in S.107 regarding the disparity in the public records law between the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Based on the objections outlined above, I am returning this legislation without my signature pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution. I believe this presents an opportunity to start a much-needed conversation about the status of our juvenile justice initiatives and make course corrections where necessary, in the interest of public safety and the young Vermonters we all agree need an opportunity to get back on the right path.

Sincerely,

/s/Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp”

Text of bill as passed by Senate and House

The text of the bill as passed by the Senate and House of Representatives is as follows:

S.107 An act relating to confidential information concerning the initial arrest and charge of a juvenile

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

* * * Exemption; records of arrest or charge of a juvenile * * *

Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 317 is amended to read:

§ 317. DEFINITIONS; PUBLIC AGENCY; PUBLIC RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS; EXEMPTIONS

* * *

(c) The following public records are exempt from public inspection and copying:

* * *

(5)(A) Records dealing with the detection and investigation of crime, but only to the extent that the production of such records:

* * *

(B)(i) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (5), records relating to management and direction of a law enforcement agency; records reflecting the initial arrest of a person, including any ticket, citation, or complaint issued for a traffic violation, as that term is defined in 23 V.S.A. § 2302; and records reflecting the charge of a person shall be public.

(ii) A public agency shall not release any information within a record reflecting the initial arrest or charge of a person under 19 years of age that would reveal the identity of the person. However, a public agency may disclose identifying information relating to the initial arrest of a person under 19 years of age in order to protect the health and safety of any person.

* * *

* * * Effective July 1, 2022 * * *

Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 317 is amended to read:

§ 317. DEFINITIONS; PUBLIC AGENCY; PUBLIC RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS; EXEMPTIONS

* * *

(c) The following public records are exempt from public inspection and copying:

* * *

(5)(A) Records dealing with the detection and investigation of crime, but only to the extent that the production of such records:

* * *

(B)(i) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (5), records relating to management and direction of a law enforcement agency; records reflecting the initial arrest of a person, including any ticket, citation, or complaint issued for a traffic violation, as that term is defined in 23 V.S.A. § 2302; and records reflecting the charge of a person shall be public.

(ii) A public agency shall not release any information within a record reflecting the initial arrest or charge of a person under ~~19~~ 20 years of age that would reveal the identity of the person. However, a public agency may disclose identifying information relating to the initial arrest of a person under ~~19~~ 20 years of age in order to protect the health and safety of any person.

* * *

Sec. 3. APPLICATION OF PUBLIC RECORDS ACT EXEMPTION REVIEW

Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 317(e), the Public Records Act exemption amended in Sec. 1 shall continue in effect and shall not be reviewed for repeal.

* * * Custodian of records relating to a person
under court jurisdiction * * *

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 5117 is amended to read:

§ 5117. RECORDS OF JUVENILE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

(a)(1) Except as otherwise provided, court and law enforcement reports and files concerning a person subject to the jurisdiction of the court shall be maintained separate from the records and files of other persons. Unless a charge of delinquency is transferred for criminal prosecution under chapter 52 of this title or the court otherwise orders in the interests of the child, such records and files shall not be open to public inspection nor their contents disclosed to the public by any person. However, upon a finding that a child is a delinquent child by reason of commission of a delinquent act ~~which~~ that would have been a felony if committed by an adult, the court, upon request of the victim, shall make the child's name available to the victim of the

delinquent act. If the victim is incompetent or deceased, the child's name shall be released, upon request, to the victim's guardian or next of kin.

(2) When a person is subject to the jurisdiction of the court, the court shall become the sole records custodian for purposes of responding to any request for court or law enforcement records concerning the person. A public agency shall direct any request for these records to the courts for response.

(3) When a person is subject to the jurisdiction of the Criminal Division of the Superior Court pursuant to chapter 52 or 52A of this title, the Criminal Division of the Superior Court shall become the sole records custodian for purposes of responding to any request for court or law enforcement records concerning the person. A public agency shall direct any request for these records to the courts for response.

* * *

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021, except that Sec. 2 (2022 amendment to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(5)(B)(ii) (public records; exemptions; records relating to the initial arrest and charge of a person)) shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 74.

An act relating to modifications to Vermont's patient choice at end of life laws.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Hardy for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee 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. § 5281 is amended to read:

§ 5281. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(11) “Health care services” means services for the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, or disease.

(12) “Telemedicine” means the delivery of health care services such as diagnosis, consultation, or treatment through the use of live interactive audio and video over a secure connection that complies with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 5283 is amended to read:

§ 5283. REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION AND DOCUMENTATION; IMMUNITY

(a) A physician shall not be subject to any civil or criminal liability or professional disciplinary action if the physician prescribes to a patient with a terminal condition medication to be self-administered for the purpose of hastening the patient’s death and the physician affirms by documenting in the patient’s medical record that all of the following occurred:

(1) The patient made an oral request to the physician in the physician’s physical presence or by telemedicine, if the physician determines the use of telemedicine to be clinically appropriate, for medication to be self-administered for the purpose of hastening the patient’s death.

(2) ~~Not~~ Not fewer than 15 days after the first oral request, the patient made a second oral request to the physician in the physician’s physical presence or by telemedicine, if the physician determines the use of telemedicine to be clinically appropriate, for medication to be self-administered for the purpose of hastening the patient’s death.

* * *

(5) The physician determined that the patient:

(A) was suffering a terminal condition, based on the physician’s ~~physical examination of the patient and~~ review of the patient’s relevant medical records and a physician’s physical examination of the patient;

(B) was capable;

(C) was making an informed decision;

(D) had made a voluntary request for medication to hasten ~~his or her~~ the patient’s own death; and

(E) was a Vermont resident.

(6) The physician informed the patient in person or by telemedicine, both verbally and in writing, of all the following:

* * *

(12) The physician wrote the prescription ~~no fewer than 48 hours~~ after the last to occur of the following events:

(A) the patient's written request for medication to hasten ~~his or her~~ the patient's own death;

(B) the patient's second oral request; ~~or~~ and

(C) the physician's offering the patient an opportunity to rescind the request.

(13) The physician either:

(A) dispensed the medication directly, provided that at the time the physician dispensed the medication, ~~he or she~~ the physician was licensed to dispense medication in Vermont, had a current Drug Enforcement Administration certificate, and complied with any applicable administrative rules; or

* * *

(14) The physician recorded and filed the following in the patient's medical record:

(A) the date, time, and wording of all oral requests of the patient for medication to hasten ~~his or her~~ the patient's own death;

(B) all written requests by the patient for medication to hasten ~~his or her~~ the patient's own death;

(C) the physician's diagnosis, prognosis, and basis for the determination that the patient was capable, was acting voluntarily, and had made an informed decision;

(D) the second physician's diagnosis, prognosis, and verification that the patient was capable, was acting voluntarily, and had made an informed decision;

(E) the physician's attestation that the patient was enrolled in hospice care at the time of the patient's oral and written requests for medication to hasten ~~his or her~~ the patient's own death or that the physician informed the patient of all feasible end-of-life services;

* * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 5285 is amended to read:

§ 5285. LIMITATIONS ON ACTIONS

* * *

(c) No physician, nurse, pharmacist, or other person licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to deliver health care services in this State shall be subject to civil or criminal liability or professional disciplinary action for acting in good faith compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section and sections 5283, 5289, and 5290 of this title, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit liability for civil damages resulting from negligent conduct or intentional misconduct by any person.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

S. 183.

An act relating to midpoint probation review.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator White for the Committee on Judiciary.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 252 is amended to read:

§ 252. CONDITIONS OF PROBATION AND MIDPOINT REVIEW

* * *

(d) Review and recommendation for discharge.

(1) The Commissioner shall review the record of each probationer serving a specified term during the month prior to the midpoint of that probationer's specified term and shall file a motion requesting the sentencing court to dismiss the probationer from probation if the offender:

(A) has not been found by the court to have violated the conditions of probation in the six months prior to the review;

(B) is not serving a sentence for committing a crime specified in 13 V.S.A. chapter 19, subchapters 6 and 7; 13 V.S.A. chapter 72, subchapter 1; or 13 V.S.A. § 2602; and

(C) has completed those rehabilitative or risk reduction services required as a condition of probation that have a duration that is set and knowable at the outset of probation.

(2) If the probationer does not meet the criteria set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, ~~or if the court denies the Commissioner's motion to discharge,~~ the Commissioner shall file a motion requesting the sentencing court to discharge the probation term once the probationer meets the criteria set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) If a probationer meets the criteria set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection and is subject to a pending criminal charge or violation of probation complaint, the Commissioner may file a motion requesting the sentencing court to dismiss the probationer from probation pursuant to this subsection. The motion shall identify the pending criminal charge or probation violation. After any pending criminal charges and probation violations are resolved, and if the probationer still meets the criteria set forth in subdivisions (1) of this subsection, the Commissioner shall file the motion requesting the sentencing court to dismiss the probationer from probation.

~~(3)~~(4) The prosecutor shall make a reasonable effort to notify any victim of record of a motion filed to reduce a probationer's term pursuant to this subsection. "Reasonable effort" means attempting to contact the victim by first-class mail at the victim's last known address and by telephone at the victim's last known phone number.

(5) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, and notwithstanding the requirement in subdivision (1) of this subsection that the Commissioner review the probationer's record during the month prior to the midpoint of that probationer's specified term, this subsection shall apply retroactively to any probationer serving a specified term of probation. If the probationer has already reached the midpoint of that probationer's specified term on or before the effective date of this act, the Commissioner shall review the probationer's record as soon as possible for purposes of filing a motion pursuant to this section.

Sec. 2. 28 V.S.A. § 251 is amended to read:

§ 251. DURATION OF PROBATION

(a) The court placing a person on probation may terminate the period of probation and discharge the person at any time if such termination is warranted by the conduct of the offender and the ends of justice.

(b)(1) Upon the Commissioner's motion to discharge pursuant to subsection 252(d) of this title, the sentencing court shall terminate the period of probation and discharge the person at the midpoint of the probation term unless the prosecutor seeks a continuation of probation within 21 days of following receipt of notice of the Commissioner's motion; and:

(A) the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that termination and discharge will present a risk of danger to the victim of the offense or to the community; or

(B) the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the probationer is not substantially in compliance with the conditions of probation that are related to the probationer's rehabilitation or to victim or community safety.

(2) If the court grants the prosecutor's motion to continue probation, it may continue probation for the full term or any portion thereof. The court shall also review the conditions of probation and remove any conditions that are no longer necessary for the remainder of the term.

(3) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, this subsection shall apply retroactively to any probationer serving a specified term of probation.

(c) A probationer shall not be deemed ineligible for discharge or term reduction due to unpaid restitution, fees, or surcharges.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on March 31, 2022.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 210.

An act relating to rental housing health and safety and affordable housing.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Clarkson for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 20 V.S.A. chapter 172, in subsection 2678(b), by inserting a new subdivision (7) to read:

(7) Units rented for fewer than 90 days. The registration and fee requirements imposed in subsection (a) of this section do not apply to a unit that is rented for fewer than 90 days per calendar year.

And by renumbering the remaining subdivision to be numerically correct

Second: In Sec. 3, repeal, by striking out “2678(b)(7)” and inserting in lieu thereof 2678(b)(8)

Third: By adding Secs. 14a and 14b to read as follows:

Sec. 14a. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAM;
FY 2022 APPROPRIATION

In fiscal year 2022, of the amounts available to the State from federal coronavirus relief funds, the amount of \$2,000,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development to implement the Vermont Rental Housing Investment Program created in Sec. 9 of this act.

Sec. 14b. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAM;
FY 2023 APPROPRIATION

In fiscal year 2023, of the amounts available to the State from federal coronavirus relief funds, the amount of \$10,000,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development to implement the Vermont Rental Housing Investment Program created in Sec. 9 of this act.

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 15, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 15 to read:

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Secs. 8–10 (Vermont Rental Housing Investment Program), and Sec. 14a (FY 2022 VRHIP appropriation) shall take effect on passage.

(b) The following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2022:

(1) Sec. 1 (DPS authority for rental housing health and safety; rental housing registration);

(2) Sec. 4 (DPS positions);

(3) Sec. 5 (DHCD positions);

(4) Sec. 6 (conforming changes to Department of Health statutes);

(5) Sec. 7 (DPS rulemaking authority and transition provisions);

(6) Secs. 11–14 (revolving loan program; reports); and

(7) Sec. 14b (FY 2023 VRHIP appropriation).

(c) Sec. 2 (administrative penalty for failure to register) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

(d) Sec. 3 (repeal of registration exemption for housing provided as a benefit of farm employment) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 157

An act relating to registration of construction contractors

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 3 V.S.A. § 122, by striking out “(50)” and inserting in lieu thereof (51)

Second: By striking out Secs. 3–7 in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof new Secs. 3–7 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. chapter 106 is added to read:

CHAPTER 106. RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 5501. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

(a) A person shall register with the Office of Professional Regulation prior to contracting with a homeowner to perform residential construction in exchange for consideration of more than \$3,500.00, including labor and materials.

(b) Unless otherwise exempt under section 5502 of this title, as used in this chapter, “residential construction” means to build, demolish, or alter a residential dwelling unit, or a building or premises with four or fewer residential dwelling units, in this State, and includes interior and exterior construction, renovation, and repair; painting; paving; roofing; weatherization; installation or repair of heating, plumbing, solar, electrical, water, or wastewater systems; and other activities the Office specifies by rule consistent with this chapter.

§ 5502. EXEMPTIONS

This chapter does not apply to:

(1) an employee acting within the scope of his or her employment for a business organization registered under this chapter;

(2)(A) a professional engineer, licensed architect, or a tradesperson licensed, registered, or certified by the Department of Public Safety acting within the scope of his or her license, registration, or certification; or

(B) a business that performs residential construction if the work is performed primarily by or under the direct supervision of one or more employees who are individually exempt from registration under subdivision (2)(A) of this section;

(3) delivery or installation of consumer appliances, audio-visual equipment, telephone equipment, or computer network equipment;

(4) landscaping;

(5) work on a structure that is not attached to a residential building; or

(6) work that would otherwise require registration that a person performs in response to an emergency, provided the person applies for registration within a reasonable time after performing the work.

§ 5503. MANDATORY REGISTRATION AND VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION DISTINGUISHED

(a)(1) The system of mandatory registration established by this chapter is intended to protect against fraud, deception, breach of contract, and violations of law, but is not intended to establish standards for professional qualifications or workmanship that is otherwise lawful.

(2) The provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 129a, with respect to a registration, shall be construed in a manner consistent with the limitations of this subsection.

(b) The system of voluntary certification established in this chapter is intended to provide consumers and contractors with a publicly available, noncommercial venue for contractors to list optional approved certifications. The Director of Professional Regulation, in consultation with public safety officials and recognized associations or boards of builders, remodelers, architects, and engineers, may:

(1) adopt rules providing for the issuance of voluntary certifications, as defined in subdivision 3101a(1) of this title, that signify demonstrated competence in particular subfields and specialties related to residential construction;

(2) establish minimum qualifications, and standards for performance and conduct, necessary for certification; and

(3) discipline a certificant for violating adopted standards or other law, with or without affecting the underlying registration.

Subchapter 2. Administration

§ 5505. DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR

(a) The Director of Professional Regulation shall:

(1) provide information to the public concerning registration, certification, appeal procedures, and complaint procedures;

(2) administer fees established under this chapter;

(3) receive applications for registration or certification, issue registrations and certifications to applicants qualified under this chapter, deny or renew registrations or certifications, and issue, revoke, suspend, condition, and reinstate registrations and certifications as ordered by an administrative law officer; and

(4) prepare and maintain a registry of registrants and certificants.

(b) The Director, after consultation with an advisor appointed pursuant to section 5506 of this title, may adopt rules to implement this chapter.

§ 5506. ADVISORS

(a) The Secretary of State shall appoint two persons pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 129b to serve as advisors in matters relating to residential contractors and construction.

(b) To be eligible to serve, an advisor shall:

(1) register under this chapter;

(2) have at least three years' experience in residential construction immediately preceding appointment; and

(3) remain active in the profession during his or her service.

(c) The Director of Professional Regulation shall seek the advice of the advisors in implementing this chapter.

§ 5507. FEES

A person regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees at initial application and biennial renewal:

(1) Registration, individual: \$75.00.

(2) Registration, business organization: \$250.00.

(3) State certifications: \$75.00 for a first certification and \$25.00 for each additional certification.

Subchapter 3. Registrations

§ 5508. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for registration, the Director of Professional Regulation shall find that the applicant is in compliance with the provisions of this chapter and applicable State law and has satisfied any judgment order related to the provision of professional services to a homeowner.

§ 5509. REQUIREMENTS OF REGISTRANTS

(a) Insurance. A person registered under this chapter shall maintain minimum liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$300,000.00 per claim and \$1,000,000.00 aggregate, evidence of which may be required as a precondition to issuance or renewal of a registration.

(b) Writing.

(1) A person registered under this chapter shall execute a written contract prior to receiving a deposit or commencing residential construction work if the estimated value of the labor and materials exceeds \$3,500.00.

(2) A contract shall specify:

(A) Price. One of the following provisions for the price of the contract:

(i) a maximum price for all work and materials;

(ii) a statement that billing and payment will be made on a time and materials basis, not to exceed a maximum price; or

(iii) a statement that billing and payment will be made on a time and materials basis and that there is no maximum price.

(B) Work dates. Estimated start and completion dates.

(C) Scope of work. A description of the services to be performed and a description of the materials to be used.

(D) Change order provision. A description of how and when amendments to the contract may be approved and documented, as agreed by the parties.

(3) The parties shall document an amendment to the contract in a signed writing.

(c) Down payment.

(1) If a contract specifies a maximum price for all work and materials or a statement that billing and payment will be made on a time and materials basis, not to exceed a maximum price, the contract may require a down payment of up to one-half of the cost of labor to the consumer, or one-half of the price of materials, whichever is greater.

(2) If a contract specifies that billing and payment will be made on a time and materials basis and that there is no maximum price, the contract may require a down payment as negotiated by the parties.

§ 5510. PROHIBITIONS AND REMEDIES

(a) A person who does not register as required pursuant to this chapter may be subject to an injunction or a civil penalty, or both, for unauthorized practice as provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127(b).

(b) The Office of Professional Regulation may discipline a registrant or certificant for unprofessional conduct as provided in 3 V.S.A. § 129a, except that 3 V.S.A. § 129a(b) does not apply to a registrant.

(c) The following conduct by a registrant, certificant, applicant, or person who later becomes an applicant constitutes unprofessional conduct:

(1) failure to enter into a written contract when required by this chapter;

(2) failure to maintain liability or workers' compensation insurance as required by law;

(3) committing a deceptive act in commerce in violation of 9 V.S.A. § 2453;

(4) falsely claiming certification under this chapter, provided that this subdivision does not prevent accurate and nonmisleading advertising or statements related to credentials that are not offered by this State; and

(5) selling or fraudulently obtaining or furnishing a certificate of registration, certification, license, or any other related document or record, or assisting another person in doing so, including by reincorporating or altering a trade name for the purpose or with the effect of evading or masking revocation, suspension, or discipline against a registration issued under this chapter.

Sec. 4. IMPLEMENTATION

(a) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of 26 V.S.A. chapter 106:

(1) The initial biennial registration term for residential contractors pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 106 shall begin on April 1, 2023.

(2) The Secretary of State may begin receiving applications for the initial registration term on December 1, 2022.

(3)(A) The registration fee for individuals who submit complete registration requests between December 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 is \$25.00 and between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, the fee is \$50.00.

(B) The registration fee for business organizations that submit complete registration requests between December 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 is \$175.00 and between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, the fee is \$200.00.

(4) Prior to April 1, 2024, the Office of Professional Regulation shall not take any enforcement action for unauthorized practice under 26 V.S.A. § 5510(a) against a residential contractor who fails to register as required by this act.

(b) On or before July 1, 2023, the Director of Professional Regulation shall establish an initial set of voluntary certifications, to include at minimum OSHA standards on construction projects and components of energy-efficient “green” building for insulators, carpenters, and heating and ventilation installers.

Sec. 5. CREATION OF POSITIONS WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; LICENSING

(a) There are created within the Secretary of State’s Office of Professional Regulation one new position in licensing and one new position in enforcement.

(b) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$200,000.00 in Office of Professional Regulation special funds is appropriated to the Secretary of State to fund the positions created in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 6. SECRETARY OF STATE; STATUS REPORT

On or before January 15, 2024, the Office of Professional Regulation shall report to the House Committees on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and on Government Operations and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations concerning the implementation of 26 V.S.A. chapter 106, including:

(1) the number of registrations and certifications;

(2) the resources necessary to implement the chapter;

(3) the number and nature of any complaints or enforcement actions;

(4) the potential design and implementation of a one-stop portal for contractors and consumers; and

(5) any other issues the Office deems appropriate.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Concurrent Resolutions For Action Under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House. They will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary's Office.

S.C.R. 11 (For text of Resolution, see Addendum to Senate Calendar for January 20, 2022)

H.C.R. 86 - 87 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for January 20, 2022)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Matthew Valerio of Proctor – Defender General – By Sen. Benning for the Committee on Judiciary. (1/14/22)

PUBLIC HEARING

January 26, 2022 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - House Chamber - Re: Proposal 5 - Proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont - Right to personal reproductive freedom. - House Committee on Human Services.

JFO NOTICE

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3):

JFO #3085 – Two (2) limited-service positions to the VT Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. One (1) VR Program Coordinator to oversee at statewide scholarship, and mentor program for personal care attendants. One (1) VR Assistive Technology Specialist for vocational rehabilitation clients including transition age youth (high school students). Both positions funded through 9/30/2025 by previously approved grant JFO #2510.

[Received January 4, 2022]

JFO #3086 – \$925,840 to the VT Agency of Education from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services. The grant will be used to fund two projects: Phase II of a current IT systems upgrade to improve interconnectivity and data transfer functionalities of the system; and a pilot of the Ed-Fi data model to explore improvements for data transfers between local education agencies, child nutrition programs and other state agencies. Edfi is a national data standard in education. Please see this link for more information on the data system: <https://www.ed-fi.org/>.

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