

Proposed Revisions to H.329 by VSBA, VSBIT, VSA, and VPA

Contact: Heather T. Lynn, Esq., Lynn, Lynn, Blackman & Manitsky, P.S.
House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs—March 22, 2022

Thank you for your continued attention to the concerns our organizations have outlined in written testimony previously submitted to the Committee regarding the effects of House Bill 329. We appreciate the modifications currently up for consideration (see Bill Draft 3.1) in response to those concerns. We have also, as requested by the Committee, engaged in dialogue with other organizations with an interest in the bill.

Following discussions with representatives of Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Vermont Legal Aid, the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and the Human Rights Commission, the **VSBA, VSA, VSBIT and VPA** would *accept Bill Draft No. 3.1—including the amendment to 12 V.S.A. § 525 increasing the limitations period for claims brought under the Vermont Public Accommodations Act, 9 V.S.A. § 4506(a), and the Vermont Fair Employment Practices Act, 21 V.S.A. § 495b—so long as and provided that the following ADDITIONAL language is added to 9 V.S.A. § 4501 (12):*

(12)(D) No provision of this section (12) shall be construed to apply to any place of public accommodation not engaged in the sale or rental of dwellings or other real estate. There shall be no change resulting from the provisions of this section (12) to the standard of liability for schools under this chapter.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Atty. Lynn will be available March 23, 2022 to offer testimony in support of this request and to answer any questions the Committee may have.