

To: House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs

From: Tim Piper, Co-Chair, Vermont Lodging Association

Date: April 7, 2021

Re: S.79/Short Term Rentals

On behalf of the Vermont Lodging Association, I would like to testify to highlight the need for state oversight regarding unlicensed lodging establishments and ask your committee to consider four additions to S.79:

- Under § 2478. STATE RENTAL HOUSING REGISTRY; HOUSING DATA in addition to the items listed for registering, we request adding the owners' full-time address and the number of units the owner operates and owns.
 - We believe this will provide the state with a clearer understanding of the makeup of unlicensed lodging establishments in Vermont.
- All lodging establishments should provide the state with a certificate of insurance.
 - Many who rent their homes through a STR platform believe that the insurance provided is sufficient and insurance companies will tell you this is not the case.
- Each STR should be accounted for with the Department of Taxes by having its own unique Tax ID number.
 - This will assure the state that they are collecting all rooms and meals taxes and that local option taxes are being collected and credited to the proper municipalities. This will also allow for the Tax Department to have an easier access to auditing.
- An exception be made for hotels that also use STR platforms to book rooms.
 - These establishments already comply with Vermont law as licensed lodging establishments.

We look forward to the opportunity to share our perspective. Thank you for your work on behalf of Vermonters.