

Draft 21-0789 (An Act Relating to the Printing and Distribution of State publications)

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RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Libraries and the Office of the Secretary of State support the recommendations set forth in Draft 21-0789 entitled: An act relating to the printing and distribution of state publications.

Much of the statutory language in Title 29, Chapter 53 (Public Printing) remains unchanged from the State of Vermont's first public printing laws of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with the last substantive change occurring in 1970 pursuant to Act 226 of 1970. Repealing several statutes in Title 29, Chapter 53 and amending related statutes in Title 3, Chapter 5 (Secretary of State) and Title 22, Chapter 13 (Department of Libraries) would better reflect the intent of the General Assembly in contemporary times and align with other relevant laws enacted by the General Assembly in the last fifty years, including but not limited to:

- [Act 231 of 1976](#) (An act to add 1 V.S.A. Chapter 5, Subchapter 3 relating to access to public documents and records)
- [Act 148 of 1996](#) (An act relating to reorganization of the departments of buildings and general services and libraries)
- [Act 96 of 2008](#) (An act related to consolidating management of public records)
- [Act 33 of 2009](#) (An act relating to the repeal or revision of certain state agency reporting requirements)
- [Act 146 of 2010](#) (An act relating to implementation of challenges for change)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Division of Documents was created by Act 214 of 1906, an act that addressed the printing and distribution of “public documents,” which are narrowly defined in [29 V.S.A. § 1101](#) as the following state publications: “acts and resolves and journals of the General Assembly [and] reports of State officers or of any commission, board, or person authorized by law to make reports.”

It was the duty of the Commissioner of Public Printing, a successor to the Commissioners on State Printing (Secretary of State, State Auditor, and State Librarian) and predecessor to the current Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, to “cause to be printed” public documents as defined by the law and then “deliver” said printed “public documents” to the “custodian of public documents,” who would then distribute the publications as required by law.

The Division of Documents, which resided within the State Library, was dissolved by Act 226 of 1970, which created the Department of Libraries. Several of the statutes in Title 22 (Libraries, History and Information Technology) and Title 29, Chapter 53 (Public Printing) were amended to direct the delivery of “public documents” to the State Librarian for distribution as required by law and also require the storage of “surplus copies” by the State Librarian for further distribution at a fixed price.

Act 226 of 1970, however, was the last substantial change to the laws relating the “state librarian” with parts of the original Act 160 of 1894 and Act 214 of 1906 remaining in statute in Title 22, Chapter 13 (Department of Libraries) and in Title 29, Chapter 53 (Public Printing).

1906.]

PUBLIC ACTS.

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No. 214.—AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND THE PROMULGATION OF PUBLIC ACTS, AND TO REPEAL CERTAIN SECTIONS OF VERMONT STATUTES AND CERTAIN ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Section

1. Appointment of printing commissioner; contracts.
2. Report of commissioner.
- 3-4. Number of reports printed; bids; description of reports to be printed; delay in delivery.
5. Office supplies furnished by commissioner.
6. Governor's message.
7. Completion of printed reports.
8. Compensation.
9. Legislative directory.
10. Custodian of public documents.
11. Delivery of reports; compensation.
12. Division of documents in State Library.
13. Delivery of documents to custodian.
14. Record of documents delivered.
15. Expenses of custodian.
16. Distribution of documents.
17. Surplus copies; storeroom.

Section

18. Definition of “public documents”; distribution.
19. Price of surplus copies.
20. Distribution of journals.
21. Distribution of report of superintendent of education.
22. Public statutes to be furnished high schools.
23. Other documents, furnished high schools.
24. Sending of documents to town clerk.
25. Printing of Vermont reports.
26. Distribution of Vermont reports.
27. Sale of Vermont reports.
28. Printing of public acts in newspapers.
29. Number of supplements.
30. Price of supplements.
31. Delivery of documents to newspapers.
32. Repeals.
33. Takes effect from passage.