

House resolution amending the Rules and Orders of the House of
Representatives related to the prevention of sexual harassment

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Bluemle of Burlington,
Feltus of Lyndon, McCoy of Poultney, and Mrowicki of Putney

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That Rule 90(c) of the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives be
amended to read:

(c) Sexual Harassment

(1) The House of Representatives is opposed to and prohibits sexual
harassment without qualification. This ~~policy~~ rule covers the conduct of
Representatives and persons that either the Speaker's Office or the Office of
the Clerk of the House employs.

(2) This policy protects Representatives, employees, and members of the
public, including lobbyists, advocates, and members of the press, from sexual
harassment attributable to a Representative or an employee of these offices.

(3) The Rules Committee shall, at the beginning of the biennium,
appoint a Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel composed of five members of
the House who shall serve until successors are appointed.

(4) The Panel shall elect a chair, adopt procedures to conduct its
business, adopt a policy against sexual harassment in compliance with 21
V.S.A. § 495h and as necessary to implement this ~~policy~~ rule, and shall

provide copies of ~~the policy set forth in~~ this rule and the adopted procedures and policy against sexual harassment to all members of the House and employees of the Speaker's Office and the Office of the Clerk of the House.

(5) The Panel shall receive and investigate complaints of alleged sexual harassment made against members of the House or an employee of the Speaker's Office or the Office of the Clerk of the House. The Panel may meet remotely during adjournment to consider complaints as set forth in the Panel's adopted procedures.

(6) The Panel shall advise individual members and provide training to all House members, employees, and interns on the scope of conduct constituting prohibited sexual harassment.

(7) The Panel, if it deems it necessary, may recommend to the House any disciplinary action against a member for a sexual harassment violation.

(8) These Rules prohibit retaliation against a person who complains, reports, or cooperates in an investigation of sexual harassment.

(9) Annually, on or before December 31, the Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel shall report to the House the number of complaints filed, the disposition of those complaints, and the number of member requests for advice on sexual harassment inquiries.