

1 S.155

2 Introduced by Senator White

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Executive Branch; reorganization of Executive Branch; law  
6 enforcement agencies

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to reorganize  
8 public safety services within the Executive Branch and create the Agency of  
9 Public Safety.

10 An act relating to the creation of the Agency of Public Safety

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

12 \* \* \* Creation of Agency \* \* \*

13 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. chapter 69 is added to read:

14 CHAPTER 69. AGENCY OF PUBLIC SAFETY

15 Subchapter 1. General Provisions

16 § 6001. DEFINITIONS

17 (1) “Agency” means the Agency of Public Safety.

18 (2) “Commissioner” means the head of a department responsible to the  
19 Secretary for the administration of the department.

20 (3) “Department” means a major component of the Agency.

1           (4) “Director” means the head of a division of the Agency.

2           (5) “Division” means a major component of a department engaged in  
3 furnishing services to the public or to units of government at levels other than  
4 the State level.

5           (6) “Secretary” means the head of the Agency, a member of the  
6 Governor’s Cabinet, who is responsible to the Governor for the administration  
7 of the Agency.

8           § 6002. CREATION OF AGENCY

9           (a) There is hereby created the Agency of Public Safety for the purpose of  
10 ensuring the coordination of all State public safety resources, including  
11 reducing redundancies; increasing efficiencies; and standardizing policies,  
12 training, and data collection.

13           (b) The Agency of Public Safety shall consist of the following:

14           (1) the Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management,  
15 including:

16                   (A) the Division of Emergency Management;

17                   (B) the Division of Fire Safety; and

18                   (C) the Office of Training;

19           (2) the Department of Law Enforcement, including:

20                   (A) the Division of the Vermont State Police; and

21                   (B) the Division of Motor Vehicle Enforcement;

- 1           (3) the Division of Support Services; and  
2           (4) the Office of Community Engagement.

3           (c) The Agency shall provide administrative support to the following  
4 boards, commissions, and councils:

- 5           (1) the Fire Service Training Council;  
6           (2) the Law Enforcement Advisory Board;  
7           (3) the State Police Advisory Commission;  
8           (4) the Search and Rescue Council;  
9           (5) the Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board;  
10          (6) the Electricians Licensing Board;  
11          (7) the Elevator Safety Review Board;  
12          (8) the State Emergency Response Commission;  
13          (9) the Plumbers Examining Board;  
14          (10) the Vermont Access Board; and  
15          (11) the Enhanced 911 Board.

16          § 6003. ADVISORY CAPACITY

17          (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, all boards and  
18 commissions that are a part of or are attached to the Agency pursuant to this  
19 chapter shall be advisory only, and the powers and duties of the boards and  
20 commissions, including administrative, policy-making, and regulatory  
21 functions, shall vest in and be exercised by the Secretary of the Agency.

1        (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, boards of registration  
2        attached to this Agency shall retain and exercise all existing authority with  
3        respect to licensing and maintenance of the standards of the persons registered.

4        § 6004. PERSONNEL DESIGNATION

5        The Secretary, Deputy Secretary, commissioners, deputy commissioners,  
6        attorneys, division directors, and all members of boards, committees,  
7        commissions, or councils attached to the Agency are exempt from the  
8        classified State service. Except as authorized by section 311 of this title or  
9        otherwise by law, all other positions shall be within the classified service.

10        Subchapter 2. Secretary

11        § 6021. APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES

12        (a) The Agency shall be under the direction and supervision of the  
13        Secretary, who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent  
14        of the Senate and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

15        (b) The Secretary shall oversee the activities of the Division of Support  
16        Services and the Office of Community Engagement. The Secretary shall  
17        supervise the Commissioner of Fire Safety and Emergency Management and  
18        the Commissioner of Law Enforcement.

19        § 6022. BUDGET AND REPORT

20        The Secretary shall be responsible to the Governor and shall plan,  
21        coordinate, and direct the functions vested in the Agency.

1     § 6023. DEPUTY SECRETARY

2           (a) The Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, may appoint a deputy  
3     to serve at the Secretary's pleasure and to perform such duties as the Secretary  
4     may prescribe. The Deputy shall be exempt from the classified service. The  
5     appointment shall be in writing and shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary  
6     of State.

7           (b) The Deputy Secretary shall discharge the duties and responsibilities of  
8     the Secretary in the Secretary's absence. In case a vacancy occurs in the office  
9     of the Secretary, the Deputy shall assume and discharge the duties of office  
10    until the vacancy is filled.

11    § 6024. ADVISORY COUNCILS OR COMMITTEES

12           The Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, may create such advisory  
13    councils or committees as the Secretary deems necessary within the Agency  
14    and appoint their members for terms not exceeding the Governor's term.

15    § 6025. TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATIONS

16           (a) The Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, may transfer  
17    classified positions between State departments and other components of the  
18    Agency, subject to personnel laws and rules.

19           (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, members from different  
20    divisions of the Department of Law Enforcement shall not be reassigned or

1 transferred outside their division unless the member requests a transfer and the  
2 Commissioner approves the transfer.

3 (c) The Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, may transfer  
4 appropriations or parts thereof between departments and other components in  
5 the Agency, consistent with the purposes for which the appropriation was  
6 made.

7 Subchapter 3. Commissioners and Directors

8 § 6051. COMMISSIONERS; DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS;

9 APPOINTMENT; TERM

10 The Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, shall appoint a  
11 commissioner of each department, who shall be the chief executive and  
12 administrative officer and shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

13 § 6052. MANDATORY DUTIES

14 (a) The Commissioner shall exercise the powers and perform the duties  
15 required for the effective administration of the Department.

16 (b) The Commissioner, with the approval of the Governor, shall so  
17 organize and arrange the Department as will best and most efficiently promote  
18 its work and carry out the objectives of this chapter. The Commissioner may  
19 formulate, put into effect, alter, and repeal rules for the administration of the  
20 Department.

21 (c) In addition to other duties imposed by law, the Commissioner shall:

1           (1) administer the laws assigned to the Department;

2           (2) coordinate and integrate the work of the divisions; and

3           (3) supervise and control all staff functions.

4       § 6053. PERMISSIVE DUTIES; APPROVAL OF SECRETARY

5           (a) The Commissioner may, with the approval of the Secretary:

6           (1) transfer classified positions within or between divisions subject to

7       State personnel laws and rules;

8           (2) cooperate with the appropriate federal agencies and administer

9       federal funds in support of programs within the Department;

10          (3) submit plans and reports, and in other respects comply with federal

11       law and regulations that pertain to programs administered by the Department;

12          (4) make rules and policies consistent with law for the internal

13       administration of the Department and its programs;

14          (5) appoint a deputy commissioner;

15          (6) provide training and instructions for any employees of the

16       Department, at the expense of the Department, in educational institutions or

17       other places; and

18          (7) organize, reorganize, transfer, or abolish divisions, staff functions, or

19       sections within the Department.

20          (b) The Commissioner of the Department of Law Enforcement, with the

21       approval of the Secretary, may:

1           (A) designate or change the rank or grade to be held by a member in  
2           accordance with the rules adopted by the Commissioner;

3           (B) assign or transfer members within a division to serve at such  
4           stations and to perform such duties as the Commissioner shall designate; and

5           (C) determine what certified law enforcement officers other than  
6           State Police officers shall give bonds and prescribe the conditions and amount.

7           (c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this chapter, the divisions  
8           within the Department of Law Enforcement shall not be abolished or  
9           transferred and members from different divisions of the Department of Law  
10           Enforcement shall not be reassigned or transferred outside their division unless  
11           the member requests a transfer and the Commissioner approves the transfer.

12           § 6054. DIRECTORS

13           (a) A director shall administer each division within the Agency. The  
14           commissioners, with the approval of the Secretary, shall appoint the directors  
15           for divisions that are part of a department, and the Secretary shall appoint any  
16           other directors whose appointment is not otherwise governed by law. Each  
17           division and its officers shall be under the direction and control of the  
18           appointing authority except with regard to the quasi-judicial acts or duties  
19           vested in them by law.

20           (b) No rule or policy may be issued by a director of a division without the  
21           approval of the appointing authority.



1                   Subchapter 4. Departments, Divisions, and Boards

2           § 6081. DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

3           The Department of Law Enforcement is created within the Agency of  
4 Public Safety.

5           § 6082. DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY

6                   MANAGEMENT

7           The Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management is created  
8 within the Agency of Public Safety. The Commissioner of Fire Safety and  
9 Emergency Management, as Fire Marshal, shall be responsible for enforcing  
10 the laws pertaining to the investigation of fires, the prevention of fires, the  
11 promotion of fire safety, and the delivery of fire service training.

12           § 6083. DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

13           (a) The Division of Support Services is created within the Agency of Public  
14 Safety. It shall be administered by the Deputy Secretary of the Agency.

15           (b) The Division of Support Services shall provide the following services  
16 to the Agency, including the following components assigned to it for  
17 administrative support:

18                   (1) personnel administration;

19                   (2) financing and accounting activities;

20                   (3) coordination of filing and records maintenance activities;

1           (4) provision of facilities, office space, and equipment and the care  
2           thereof;

3           (5) requisitioning from the Department of Buildings and General  
4           Services of the Agency of Administration supplies, equipment, and other  
5           requirements;

6           (6) management improvement services;

7           (7) training, including diversity, equity, and inclusion training;

8           (8) communications, including dispatch and radio technology;

9           (9) fleet services;

10          (10) information systems and technology, including the Vermont Crime  
11          Information Center and the Sex Offender Registry;

12          (11) grant management; and

13          (12) other administrative functions assigned to it by the Secretary.

14          (c) Other provisions of the law notwithstanding, all administrative service  
15          functions delegated to other components of the Agency shall be performed  
16          within the Agency by the Division of Support Services.

17          § 6084. OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

18          (a) The Office of Community Engagement is created within the Agency of  
19          Public Safety. It shall be administered by the Deputy Secretary of the Agency.

20          (b) The Office of Community Engagement shall:

1           (1) create and execute a process to engage public safety stakeholders in  
2           the development of key Agency policies with broad stakeholder interest;

3           (2) create and maintain a variety of mechanisms for community  
4           feedback and engagement regarding the operations of the public safety system;  
5           and

6           (3) maintain a list of relevant public safety stakeholders.

7                           \* \* \* Transfer of Funds, Equipment, and Positions \* \* \*

8           Sec. 2. PROVISIONS FOR THE TRANSITION OF THE ENHANCED 911

9                           BOARD

10           (a) All financial assets and liabilities of the Enhanced 911 Board, including  
11           all appropriations associated with the positions transferred pursuant to  
12           subsection (b) of this section, are transferred to the Agency of Public Safety.

13           (b) All authorized positions and equipment, supplies, and inventory of the  
14           Enhanced 911 Board are transferred to the Agency of Public Safety.

15           (c) The Enhanced 911 Board shall have the administrative, technical, and  
16           legal assistance of the Agency of Public Safety.

17           (d) The rules of the Enhanced 911 Board shall become a subtitle under the  
18           rules of the Agency of Public Safety.

1       Sec. 3. PROVISIONS FOR THE TRANSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT  
2                                   OF MOTOR VEHICLES ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

3           (a) All duties, obligations, responsibilities, and authority of the certified  
4           law enforcement officers in the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)  
5           Enforcement Division under Title 19 and 23 V.S.A., chapter 15, and applicable  
6           rules, are transferred to the Agency of Public Safety, Department of Law  
7           Enforcement, Division of Motor Vehicle Enforcement.

8           (b) All financial assets and liabilities of the DMV Enforcement Division,  
9           including all appropriations associated with the positions transferred, are  
10          transferred to the Agency of Public Safety, Department of Law Enforcement,  
11          Division of Motor Vehicle Enforcement.

12          (c) All authorized positions, functions, equipment, supplies, and inventory  
13          of the certified law enforcement officers of the DMV Enforcement Division  
14          are transferred to the Agency of Public Safety Department of Law  
15          Enforcement, Division of Motor Vehicle Enforcement.

16          (d) The certified law enforcement officers transferred to the Agency of  
17          Public Safety shall maintain their relationships with and support of the  
18          Department of Motor Vehicles; other components of federal, State, and  
19          municipal government; and private sector collaborations.



1 Director may, with the approval of the Board, hire employees, agents, and  
2 consultants and prescribe their duties. The Executive Director shall submit a  
3 budget to the Secretary. The Executive Director shall not be under the  
4 direction and control of the Secretary except with regard to the budget and  
5 other administrative functions given to the Director or the Board by law.

6 Sec. 6. 30 V.S.A. § 7053 is amended to read:

7 § 7053. BOARD; RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS

8 (a) The Board shall be the single governmental agency responsible for  
9 statewide Enhanced 911 pursuant to chapter 87 of this title and 3 V.S.A.  
10 chapter 69. To the extent feasible, the Board shall consult with the Agency of  
11 Human Services, the ~~Department~~ Agency of Public Safety, the Department of  
12 Public Service, and local community service providers on the development of  
13 policies, system design, standards, and procedures. The Board shall develop  
14 designs, standards, and procedures and shall adopt rules on the following:

15 (1) The technical and operational standards for public safety answering  
16 points.

17 (2) The system database standards and procedures for developing and  
18 maintaining the database. The system database shall be the property of the  
19 Board.

20 (3) Statewide, locatable means of identifying customer location, such as  
21 addressing, geo-coding, or other methods of locating the caller.

1 (4) Standards and procedures to ensure system and database security.

2 \* \* \*

3 \* \* \* Statutory Changes for Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officers \* \* \*

4 Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 1 is amended to read:

5 § 1. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF TITLE

6 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the ~~Commissioner~~ Secretary of  
7 Public Safety shall ~~cooperate in carrying out all the statutes and rules adopted~~  
8 ~~to implement the provisions of this title to achieve the most efficient and~~  
9 ~~economical administration. In case of disagreement as to division of work, the~~  
10 ~~Governor shall decide.~~ enter into a memorandum of understanding to ensure  
11 that enforcement needs of the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Agency  
12 of Public Safety, Department of Law Enforcement, Division of Motor Vehicle  
13 Enforcement are achieved.

14 Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 1600 is amended to read:

15 § 1600. DEFINITION

16 Notwithstanding subdivision 4(4) of this title, as used in this chapter,  
17 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Agency of Public Safety,  
18 Department of Law Enforcement.





1 ~~basis of training, experience, and qualifications. The Commissioner shall be~~  
2 ~~appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.~~

3 (e)(a) The Commissioner of ~~Public Safety~~ Law Enforcement may contract  
4 for security and related traffic control, and receive reimbursement for  
5 reasonable costs ~~which~~ that shall include costs associated with providing  
6 personnel, benefits, equipment, vehicles, insurances, and related expenses.  
7 These reimbursements shall be credited to a special fund established pursuant  
8 to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5, and be available to offset costs of  
9 providing those services.

10 (d)(b) The Commissioner of ~~Public Safety~~ Law Enforcement shall collect  
11 fees for the termination of alarms at State Police facilities and for response to  
12 false alarms.

13 (e)(c) Termination Fees.

14 (1) The termination fee for a single dedicated circuit alarm at a State  
15 Police facility will be \$250.00 per user per year.

16 (2) An alarm company or monitoring service that is authorized to install  
17 a multi-unit alarm panel at a State Police facility will be assessed a fee of  
18 \$25.00 per alarm with a minimum fee of \$250.00 per panel per year.

19 (3) An individual or business who programs a tape dialer or other  
20 automatic notification device to transmit a voice message to a State Police  
21 facility, informing the police of a burglary or other emergency, must register

1 such dialer with the State Police facility and will be assessed a registration fee  
2 of \$50.00 per year. The fee includes an onsite inspection by a member of the  
3 State Police.

4 (4) If State Police respond to an alarm and it is found that the alarm was  
5 transmitted by an unregistered tape dialer or similar notification device, a  
6 registration fee of \$50.00 will be assessed subsequent to that response. Unpaid  
7 registration fees are considered to be alarms in default and handled in  
8 accordance with the provisions of the section on response terminations.

9 ~~(f)~~(d) False Alarms:.

10 (1) A false alarm is notification given to the State Police by electronic or  
11 telephonic means that an emergency situation exists, when an emergency or  
12 other circumstance that could be perceived as an emergency does not exist and  
13 to which the State Police have responded.

14 (2) Alarm periods shall be based on the calendar year, January 1 through  
15 December 31.

16 (3) The first false alarm in an alarm period shall be at no cost. The  
17 second false alarm in the alarm period shall be assessed at \$50.00 and each  
18 successive false alarm in the same alarm period shall be assessed at \$75.00.

19 ~~(g)~~(e) Response Terminations:.

20 (1) Alarm fees ~~which~~ that have been assessed and not paid for a period  
21 of 60 days from the date of the last billing are considered alarms in default and

1 the State Police station commander, with the concurrence of the State Police  
2 troop commander, may notify the alarm holder that the State Police will no  
3 longer respond to alarms at that location as long as the alarm holder is in  
4 default.

5 (2) When in the opinion of the station commander, with the concurrence  
6 with the troop commander, there exists a chronic false alarm problem ~~which~~  
7 that the alarm holder appears not to have taken reasonable measures to correct,  
8 the station commander may send notification that the State Police will no  
9 longer respond to alarms at that location until the problem is corrected even if  
10 the alarm holder is not in default on fees assessed.

11 ~~(h)(f)~~ Appeal: An alarm holder may appeal a decision of the station  
12 commander to the troop commander.

13 ~~(i)(g)~~ The Commissioner of ~~Public Safety~~ Law Enforcement may enter into  
14 contractual arrangements to perform dispatching functions for State,  
15 municipal, or other emergency services.

16 ~~(j)(h)~~ Charges collected under subsections ~~(e)(c)~~, ~~(f)(d)~~, and ~~(i)(g)~~ of this  
17 section shall be credited to the Vermont Law Telecommunications Special  
18 Fund and shall be available to the Department to offset the costs of providing  
19 the services.

1 Sec. 12. 20 V.S.A. § 1872 is amended to read:

2 § 1872. DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER GENERALLY

3 The Commissioner shall be the chief enforcement officer of all the statutes  
4 and rules pertaining to the law of the road and the display of lights on vehicles.  
5 In addition, the Commissioner shall supervise and direct the activities of the  
6 State Police and of the Vermont Crime Information Center ~~and, as Fire~~  
7 ~~Marshal, be responsible for enforcing the laws pertaining to the investigation~~  
8 ~~of fires, the prevention of fires, the promotion of fire safety, and the delivery of~~  
9 ~~fire service training.~~

10 Sec. 13. 20 V.S.A. § 1874 is amended to read:

11 § 1874. ORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENT BY COMMISSIONER

12 (a) The Commissioner of Law Enforcement, with the approval of the  
13 Governor and the Secretary, shall so organize and arrange the Department of  
14 Law Enforcement as will best and most efficiently promote its work and carry  
15 out the objectives of this chapter and chapter 69 of this title. To that end, the  
16 Commissioner may, with the Governor's approval, create, rearrange, and  
17 abolish divisions, establish grades, ranks, and positions to be held by members,  
18 and formulate, put into effect, alter, and repeal rules for the administration of  
19 the Department to the extent permitted by law.

20 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 14. 20 V.S.A. § 1883 is amended to read:

2 § 1883. STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT; MEMORANDUM OF  
3 UNDERSTANDING

4 (a) ~~The Commissioner of Public Safety~~ In anticipation of consolidating all  
5 certified law enforcement resources into the Agency of Public Safety, the  
6 Secretary of Public Safety shall develop and execute a memorandum of  
7 understanding with the Commissioners of Fish and Wildlife, of Motor  
8 Vehicles, and of Liquor and Lottery and their respective directors of law  
9 enforcement. The memorandum of understanding shall ~~be reviewed at least~~  
10 ~~every two years and shall~~ at a minimum address:

11 (1) ~~Maximizing~~ Consolidating collective resources ~~by and~~ reducing or  
12 eliminating redundancies and implementing a methodology that will enhance  
13 overall coordination and communication and standardize training and policies  
14 while supporting the mission of individual enforcement ~~agencies~~ divisions.

15 (2) Providing for an overall statewide law enforcement strategic plan  
16 supported by quarterly planning and implementation strategy sessions to  
17 improve efficiencies and coordination on an operational level and ensure  
18 ~~interagency~~ cooperation and collaboration of programs funded through grants.  
19 The strategic plan should identify clear goals and performance measures that  
20 demonstrate results, as well as specific strategic plans for individual  
21 enforcement ~~agencies~~ divisions.



1 Sec. 15. 20 V.S.A. chapter 113, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

2 Subchapter 2. ~~State Police~~ Certified Law Enforcement Officers

3 § 1911. EXAMINATIONS; APPOINTMENT; PROMOTION; PROBATION

4 The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall devise and administer examinations  
5 designed to test the qualifications of applicants for positions as ~~state police~~  
6 certified law enforcement officers assigned to the Department of Law  
7 Enforcement and only those applicants shall be appointed or promoted who  
8 meet the prescribed standards and qualifications. Where certified law  
9 enforcement officer positions support the work of agencies or departments  
10 outside the Agency of Public Safety, the Commissioner shall consult the  
11 agencies or departments concerning the qualifications for the positions. All  
12 state police certified law enforcement officers assigned to the Department of  
13 Law Enforcement shall be on probation for one year from the date of first  
14 appointment. Such examinations shall be with the advice of the Department of  
15 Human Resources.

16 § 1912. BOND AND OATH

17 ~~State police~~ Certified law enforcement officers assigned to the Department  
18 of Law Enforcement shall give bond to the ~~state~~ State, at the expense of the  
19 ~~state~~ State, in such penal sum as the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall require,  
20 conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties. ~~State police~~ Certified  
21 law enforcement officers assigned to the Department of Law Enforcement and

1 auxiliary ~~state~~ State police shall take the oath of office prescribed for sheriffs  
2 before the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner or any person designated under  
3 12 V.S.A. § 5852 to administer oaths.

4 § 1913. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

5 Within the appropriation for the Department, the Commissioner shall  
6 provide the ~~State Police~~ certified law enforcement officers assigned to the  
7 Department of Law Enforcement, and such other members as ~~he or she~~ the  
8 Commissioner may designate, with uniforms and all members with the  
9 equipment necessary in the performance of their respective duties, which shall  
10 remain the property of the State. The Commissioner shall consult with  
11 agencies and departments that are supported by certified law enforcement  
12 officers assigned to the Department of Law Enforcement on the uniforms and  
13 equipment necessary for those positions. The Commissioner may sell such  
14 equipment as may become unfit for use, and all monies received from the sale  
15 shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the ~~Department's~~  
16 Agency's appropriation. The Commissioner shall keep an inventory and shall  
17 charge against each member all property of the Department issued to ~~him or~~  
18 ~~her~~ the member, and if the Commissioner ~~shall determine~~ determines that a  
19 loss or destruction was due to the carelessness or neglect of the member, the  
20 value of the property shall be deducted from ~~his or her~~ the member's pay.



1 § 1914. POWERS AND IMMUNITIES

2 The Commissioner of ~~Public Safety~~ Law Enforcement and ~~the State Police~~  
3 all certified law enforcement officers assigned to the Department of Law  
4 Enforcement shall be peace officers and shall have the same powers with  
5 respect to criminal matters and the enforcement of the law relating to criminal  
6 matters as sheriffs, constables, and local police have in their respective  
7 jurisdictions, and shall have all the immunities and matters of defense now  
8 available or hereafter made available to sheriffs, constables, and local police in  
9 a suit brought against them in consequence of acts done in the course of their  
10 employment. ~~State Police~~ Certified law enforcement officers assigned to the  
11 Department of Law Enforcement shall be informing or complaining officers  
12 with the same powers possessed by sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, constables, or  
13 police officers of a city or incorporated village as provided in 13 V.S.A.  
14 § 5507.

15 \* \* \*

16 Sec. 16. 20 V.S.A. § 1933 is amended to read:

17 § 1933. DNA SAMPLE REQUIRED

18 \* \* \*

19 (c) A person serving a sentence for a designated crime not confined to a  
20 correctional facility shall have ~~his or her~~ DNA samples collected or taken at a  
21 place and time designated by the Commissioner of Corrections, the

1 Commissioner of ~~Public Safety~~ Law Enforcement, or a court if the person has  
2 not previously submitted a DNA sample in connection with the designated  
3 crime for which ~~he or she~~ the person is serving the sentence.

4 Sec. 17. 20 V.S.A. § 2352 is amended to read:

5 § 2352. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

6 (a)(1) The Vermont Criminal Justice Council shall consist of:

7 (A) the Commissioners of ~~Public Safety~~ Law Enforcement, of  
8 Corrections, of Motor Vehicles, of Fish and Wildlife, and of Mental Health;

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 18. REPEALS

11 3 V.S.A. § 212(18) (the Department of Public Safety) is repealed.

12 \* \* \* Conforming Revisions \* \* \*

13 Sec. 19. CONFORMING REVISIONS

14 When preparing the Vermont Statutes Annotated for publication, the Office  
15 of Legislative Counsel shall make the following revisions throughout the  
16 statutes as needed for consistency with this act, as long as the revisions have no  
17 other effect on the meaning of the affected statutes:

18 (1) replace “Department of Public Safety” with “Department of Law  
19 Enforcement”; and

20 (2) revisions that are substantially similar to those described in  
21 subdivision (1) of this section.



1 legislative changes needed to continue an orderly and efficient organizational  
2 transition.

3 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

4 Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATES

5 (a) This section and Secs. 4 (transition; generally) and 19–20 (conforming  
6 changes; reporting) shall take effect on passage.

7 (b) Secs. 1 (agency creation) and 8–18 (conforming statutory revisions)  
8 shall take effect on July 1, 2022, except that in Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. § 6002(c)(11)  
9 (E-911 board) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

10 (c) Secs. 2–3 and 5–7 (transition provisions for motor vehicle enforcement  
11 and E-911 Board) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.