



Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

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TO: Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

FROM: The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

DATE: March 24, 2022

RE: H. 720, An act relating to the system of care for individuals with developmental disabilities

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (“the Council”) respectfully requests a change to Section 5(a) of H. 720, such that it would read:

“The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall work with the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council and a statewide self-advocacy group to quantify and describe the service-supported housing needs of Vermonters receiving Home and Community Based Services through the Developmental Disabilities Services Division and to review housing models in other states for the purpose of informing the pilot planning grants developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.”

The Council requested this change while H. 720 was before the House Committee on Human Services. It is our understanding that there was no objection to the addition and that it was omitted by mistake in drafting.

It is the intent of the Council to work expeditiously with DAAL and a statewide self-advocacy group to support the research necessary to inform the process of developing “housing and residential service pilot planning grants.” The Council believes this research should include understanding the number of individuals potentially seeking alternative service-supported housing and the reasons that such alternatives are desired. Both objectives are covered by the suggested language. The Council has identified funds to support this work.
