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This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

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**Act No. 90 (S.278). An act relating to prohibiting a comparative negligence defense in an action for a negligence claim relating to a sexual act or sexual conduct**

**Subjects: Court procedure; pleading and practice; comparative negligence**

This act amends Vermont law with respect to negligence claims, the defenses that can be used, and the apportionment of responsibility for the injury. The act provides that in negligence cases in which the defendant breached a duty to the plaintiff and that breach relates to a sexual act or sexual conduct, contributory and comparative negligence may not be used as a defense to the claim. This means that a victim of sexual abuse cannot be found responsible to any extent for the injuries that the victim sustained.

Effective Date: April 22, 2024