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Act No. 107 (H.649). An act relating to the Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Subjects: General provisions; Truth and Reconciliation Commission

This act makes multiple amendments to the enabling law for the Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission to:

- delay the repeal of the enabling law from July 1, 2026, until May 1, 2027;
- extend the end date of the Commissioners' terms from July 1, 2026, until May 1, 2027;
- delay the due date for the final report of the Commission from June 15, 2026, to April 15, 2027;
- require the final report to include a bibliography, a summary of interviews utilized to prepare the report, and information regarding where the public can access the information and materials used to prepare the report;
- create a five-member Selection Panel with the authority to fill vacancies on the Commission and to remove or reprimand commissioners for incompetence, failure to discharge duties, malfeasance, illegal acts, or other actions the Selection Panel determines would substantially and materially harm credibility of the Commission or its ability to carry out its work;
- repeal the Commission's rulemaking authority;
- grant the Commission authority to establish support groups for individuals or communities who have experienced discrimination and provides privacy protections for participants in those groups; and
- permit the Commissioners to hold deliberative discussions outside of public meetings, provided that the Commission posts summaries of the discussions and does not use the discussions to take evidence, hear public comment or arguments, or make decisions.

Effective Date: May 13, 2024