

From: Atwood, Brendan
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:49 AM
To: Rep. Tom Stevens
Subject: Re: H.639 amendment

Hi Chair Stevens,

The Health Department is also supportive of this draft, with the changes noted by Meg below. Reach out with any questions. Thank you.

Best,
Brendan

Brendan Atwood, MPP | (he/him)
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From: Meg Larraine
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:17 AM
To: Rep. Tom Stevens
Cc: Wendy Morgan
Subject: RE: H.639 amendment

Hi Chair Stevens,

We feel mostly comfortable with this draft. There are two minor changes we would like to see to in order to reach full support, which were both discussed during our meeting with Legal Aid and uncontroversial, as we remember it:

- 1) The Department has asked us to use the word "exit" instead of discharge because discharge suggests there is some sort of medical assistance or treatment (it is the term hospitals, etc. use). The Department is not comfortable using this word relative to Residences, and we agree "exit" is more appropriate.
- 2) Is there a reason the reporting to the Department was changed to come directly from each recovery residence? We believe VTARR needs to be looped in as the certifying body. Also, VTARR already has lines of communication established with each certified home and the Department.

We would like to see the reporting changed back to how it was worded when agreed upon by both parties, where certified homes report all exits immediately to VTARR (an entity residences are already comfortable communicating with), and VTARR reports those to the Department, as a state partner. We do not know the comfort level of each home to report directly to the Department, and we suspect it is more burdensome for the Department to hear from each home rather than consistently from VTARR regarding exits.

We do not remember any concerns arising during our meetings regarding these two things, and these changes would make us far more comfortable moving forward. I do not think they are deal breakers, and of course we can still address in the Senate, but I do have to raise those two concerns before signing off.

I will be in the building around 8:15am.

Meg

On Wed, Mar 20, 2024, 9:55 PM Rep. Tom Stevens wrote:

Thank you. I haven't heard from VTARR yet.

Rep. Tom Stevens
Chair
General and Housing
Vermont House of Representatives

On Mar 20, 2024, at 9:19 PM, Wendy Morgan wrote:

Thank you for getting this draft back to us all this evening.

Jean and I support this version of an amendment to H.639. We assume that stakeholders may have proposed amendments on the Senate side, but have no problem with going forward with this tomorrow.

If you have any questions, please let us know. I will plan to be in the state house by 10:30 in the morning. If I might need to be there earlier, please let me know.

Thank you for all the work on this,

Wendy

From: Ron Wild
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 7:02 PM
To: Jean Murray

CC: Wendy Morgan

Subject: H.639 amendment
Good evening,

Please find attached a *DRAFT* amendment to H.639.
It has not yet gone through the editors.

The plan remains to hear the amendment(s) at 11am tomorrow.
That could come a bit earlier if Legislative Counsel gets free.

Thanks,
Ron

Ron Wild
Committee Assistant
House Committee on General and Housing
Vermont Legislature