

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 192 entitled “An act relating to forensic facility admissions criteria and
4 processes” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with
6 further amendment as follows:

7 First: By striking out Sec. 1, purpose, in its entirety and inserting in lieu
8 thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

10 It is the purpose of this act to:

11 (1) enable the Commissioner of Mental Health to seek treatment for
12 individuals at a secure residential recovery facility, regardless of a previous
13 order of hospitalization, and at a psychiatric residential treatment facility for
14 youth;

15 (2) update the civil commitment procedures for individuals with
16 intellectual disabilities; and

17 (3) authorize the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent
18 Living to propose alternative options for a secure community-based residence
19 or residences or forensic facility to treat individuals who have been charged
20 with a crime and found incompetent to stand trial or adjudicated not guilty by

1 reason of insanity, who are in the Commissioner’s custody, and who require a
2 more secure level of care than is currently available.

3 Second: By striking out Sec. 27, individuals with intellectual disabilities;
4 enhanced services, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 27 to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 27. INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES;
7 SECURE, COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENCES

8 (a) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall
9 propose alternative options, including building and staffing cost estimates, for
10 a secure community-based residence or residences or forensic facility to treat
11 individuals who have been charged with a crime and found incompetent to
12 stand trial or adjudicated not guilty by reason of insanity, who are in the
13 Commissioner’s custody, and who require a more secure level of care than is
14 currently available. The Commissioner shall ensure that a secure community-
15 based residence or forensic facility proposed under this section would provide
16 appropriate custody, care, and habilitation in a designated program that
17 provides appropriate staffing and services levels in the least restrictive setting.
18 The alternative options shall be developed in consultation with interested
19 parties, including Disability Rights Vermont, Vermont Legal Aid,
20 Developmental Services State Program Standing Committee, Vermont Care
21 Partners, and Green Mountain Self Advocates with final placement

1 determinations made by the Commissioner. The alternative options may be
2 eligible for funding through the Global Commitment Home- and Community-
3 Based Services Waiver. Prior to seeking funding for constructing, purchasing,
4 or contracting for a secure community-based residence or forensic facility for
5 individuals in the Commissioner’s custody, the Department shall propose to
6 the House Committees on Human Services and on Judiciary and the Senate
7 Committees on Health and Welfare and on Judiciary any necessary statutory
8 modifications to uphold due process requirements.

9 (b) As used in this section:

10 (1) “Designated program” has the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 8839.

11 (2) “Secure” means that residents may be physically prevented from
12 leaving the residence by means of locking devices or other mechanical or
13 physical mechanisms.

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1 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE