

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 41
3 entitled “An act relating to referral of domestic and sexual violence cases to
4 community justice centers” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 1967 is amended to read:

8 § 1967. ~~CASES PROHIBITED~~ DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE;
9 STALKING

10 (a) ~~No~~ Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a case involving
11 domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, or stalking shall be referred
12 to a community justice center ~~except in~~ only for the purpose of Department of
13 Corrections offender reentry programs pursuant to protocols protecting
14 victims. The community justice centers shall work with the Department of
15 Corrections and the Center for Crime Victim Services or its designee to
16 develop victim safety protocols for community justice centers that take into
17 consideration victim needs such as safety, confidentiality, and privacy.

18 (b) Cases involving domestic or sexual violence may be referred to a
19 community justice center, provided the community justice center has a current
20 and executed memorandum of understanding with a local member organization

1 of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Such
2 memorandums of understanding shall include protocols that:

3 (1) establish a defined approach based on evidence or an established,
4 promising program;

5 (2) prioritize victim safety;

6 (3) require voluntary engagement by participating parties;

7 (4) require initial and annual training for relevant community justice
8 center staff, facilitators, and volunteers on the dynamics involving domestic
9 violence and sexual violence, trauma-informed approaches, and restorative
10 justice principles;

11 (5) establish roles and participation of the community justice center, the
12 local domestic and sexual violence organization, and other community partners
13 as needed;

14 (6) establish written confidentiality and privacy standards;

15 (7) establish data collection standards; and

16 (8) establish written annual evaluation and quality improvement plans
17 and processes that engage community and system stakeholders.

18 (c) Community justice centers may accept referrals involving domestic
19 violence or sexual violence after July 1, 2023 upon compliance with subsection

20 (b) of this section.

1 Sec. 2. REPORT; VERMONT NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC AND
2 SEXUAL VIOLENCE

3 (a) On or before December 1, 2025, the Vermont Network Against
4 Domestic and Sexual Violence, on behalf of the community justice centers,
5 shall submit an interim written report to the House and Senate Committees on
6 Judiciary regarding the establishment of memorandums of understanding
7 pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1967, the status of implementation of programming,
8 and the available resources and capacity for such programming.

9 (b) On or before July 1, 2027, the Vermont Network Against Domestic and
10 Sexual Violence, on behalf of the community justice centers, shall submit a
11 final report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary regarding the
12 establishment of memorandums of understanding pursuant to 24 V.S.A.
13 § 1967, the status of implementation of programming, available data on
14 effectiveness of programming, and the resources and capacity for such
15 programming.

16 Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 1967 is amended to read:

17 § 1967. DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE; STALKING

18 ~~(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a~~ No case involving
19 domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, or stalking shall be referred
20 to a community justice center ~~only for the purpose of~~ except in Department of
21 Corrections offender reentry programs pursuant to protocols protecting

1 victims. The community justice centers shall work with the Department of
2 Corrections and the Center for Crime Victim Services or its designee to
3 develop victim safety protocols for community justice centers that take into
4 consideration victim needs such as safety, confidentiality, and privacy.

5 ~~(b) Cases involving domestic or sexual violence may be referred to a~~
6 ~~community justice center, provided the community justice center has a current~~
7 ~~and executed memorandum of understanding with a local member organization~~
8 ~~of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Such~~
9 ~~memorandums of understanding shall include protocols that:~~

10 ~~(1) establish a defined approach based on evidence or an established,~~
11 ~~promising program;~~

12 ~~(2) prioritize victim safety;~~

13 ~~(3) require voluntary engagement by participating parties;~~

14 ~~(4) require initial and annual training for relevant community justice~~
15 ~~center staff, facilitators, and volunteers on the dynamics involving domestic~~
16 ~~violence and sexual violence, trauma informed approaches, and restorative~~
17 ~~justice principles;~~

18 ~~(5) establish roles and participation of the community justice center, the~~
19 ~~local domestic and sexual violence organization, and other community partners~~
20 ~~as needed;~~

21 ~~(6) establish written confidentiality and privacy standards;~~

1 ~~(7) establish data collection standards; and~~
 2 ~~(8) establish written annual evaluation and quality improvement plans~~
 3 ~~and processes that engage community and system stakeholders.~~
 4 ~~(c) Community justice centers may accept referrals involving domestic~~
 5 ~~violence or sexual violence after July 1, 2023 upon compliance with subsection~~
 6 ~~(b) of this section.~~

7 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

8 (a) This section and Secs. 1 and 2 shall take effect on passage.
 9 (b) Sec. 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2028.

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(Committee vote: _____)

 Representative _____
 FOR THE COMMITTEE